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Aug 7 1941

Country Life

JUNE 21, 1941

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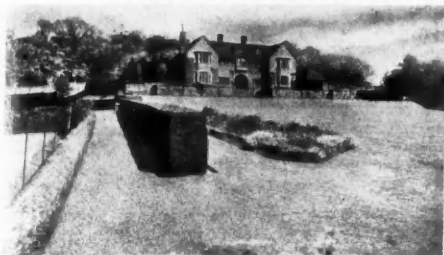
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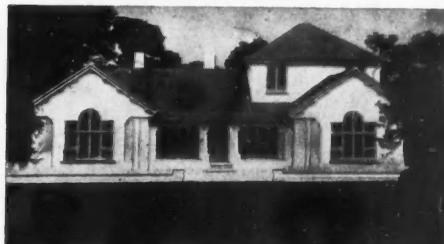
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6, Arlington Street, S.W.1. (Ref. C.31,823).
(REG. 8222.)

DEVONSHIRE

Occupying an unrivalled position 700ft. above sea level on the borders of Dartmoor.

FOR SALE A FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL ESTATE OF 300 ACRES

The House, built in the Tudor Style, was designed by an eminent architect.
Lounge hall, 5 reception rooms, 15 bed and dressing rooms, 5 bathrooms. Garage. Stabling.
Farmbuildings. Lodge. 3 Bungalows. Electric light. Central heating. Modern drainage. Excellent water supply.

WOULD BE LET FURNISHED

Agents, HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1. (Ref. C.25,262.) (REG. 8222.)



BRANCH OFFICE: HIGH STREET, WIMBLEDON COMMON, S.W.19. Tel. WIM. 0081.

'Phone: Grosvenor 2861
'Grams: "Cornishmen, London."

TRESIDDER & CO.

77, SOUTH AUDLEY STREET, W.1.

£3,300 **2 ACRES**
RENT, FURNISHED, 9 GUINEAS PER WEEK
DEVON

9 miles Exeter and Honiton, 5 minutes' walk station.

THIS CHARMING RESIDENCE

4 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 5 bedrooms.
Fitted basins in 4 bedrooms. Main electricity. Telephone.
Garage. Stabling. Greenhouse.

Attractive gardens, kitchen garden and orchard.

2 ACRES

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (17,222.)

£4,500 **65 ACRES**
1-mile Trout Fishing
DEVON—DARTMOOR

Beautiful part—3 miles Chagford

CHARMING GRANITE-BUILT HOUSE

4 reception, billiard room, studio, 2 bathrooms, 7 bedrooms.

Fitted basins (h. & c.)

Electric light. Central heating. Telephone.

Garage. Stabling. Farmhouse and Buildings.

LANDSCAPE GARDENS SLOPING TO RIVER.

Bathing pool. Pasture and Arable.

Land easily lets if not wanted.

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (17,052.)

35 UP TO 250 ACRES

110 ACRES pasture, remainder arable and wood.

SUSSEX

LOVELY OLD MANOR HOUSE

FULL OF OLD OAK AND OTHER FEATURES.

3 reception, 3 bathrooms, 7 bedrooms.

Electric light. New drainage. Telephone. "Aga" cooker

Stabling. Garages. 2 Cottages. Farmbuildings.

SECONDARY HOUSE (2 reception, bath, 4 bedrooms).

FOR SALE WITH PRACTICALLY ANY AREA

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (18,249.)

£5,000 **4½ ACRES**
CHILTERN HILLS

2 miles Beaconsfield, amidst open country.

EXCELLENT MODERN RESIDENCE

3 reception, 3 bathrooms, 9 bedrooms.

Main water. Electric light.

2 Garages. Stables for 2. Cottage.

Lovely gardens, 2 tennis courts, kitchen garden and paddock.

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (9195.)

FURNISHED, 12 GUINEAS PER WEEK
SUSSEX

Between Guildford and Horsham, 1 miles village.

LOVELY OLD SUSSEX FARMHOUSE

3/4 reception, 3 bathrooms, 6 bedrooms. Main water.

Central heating. Electric light. Large garage. Stable.

Cottage.

DELIGHTFUL GARDENS

PADDOCK AND MEADOW IN ALL ABOUT

10 ACRES

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (16,813.)

TO LET FURNISHED FOR SALE £3,750
SURREY

40 minutes from Waterloo.

A very attractive Modern Residence in good order and nicely furnished.

3 reception, 2 bathrooms, 7 bedrooms (some with fitted

basins, h. & c.)

Central heating. Main services. Telephone.

Large garage. Inexpensive grounds. Tennis and other

lawns, kitchen garden, etc.

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (5488.)

NEW FOREST

¼ mile station, 2 miles sea, secluded.

ATTRACTIVE MODERN RESIDENCE

3 reception, 3 bath, 9 bed and dressing rooms.

All main services. Telephone. Central heating.

Garage for 2. Well-timbered grounds. Kitchen garden,

grassland and wood intersected by stream.

4 ACRES

FOR SALE OR LETTING

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (15,153.)

26 ACRES **REASONABLE PRICE**
OXON—BERKS

Borders, 8 miles Oxford. Secluded position in lovely old village.

XVTH CENTURY AND ELIZABETHAN MANSION

4 reception, banqueting hall, 3 bathrooms, 20 bedrooms.

Central heating, telephone, etc.

Guest house. Garages. 2 cottages. Barns.

Most delightful grounds.

LONG FRONTAGE TO RIVER WITH BOATHOUSE

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (11,948.)

10 guineas per week plus Gardener
COTSWOLDS

13 miles Cheltenham, 10 Burford, 1 mile village.

WELL FURNISHED COTSWOLD RESIDENCE

In excellent order.

Electric light. Central heating. Telephone.

Hall, 3 reception, 3 bathrooms, 10 bedrooms.

Garage for 2. Stabling for 4.

Delightful gardens, tennis lawn, walled kitchen and fruit

garden and paddocks.

6 ACRES. STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (19,651.)

335 ACRES **£12,000**
EASTERN COTSWOLDS

700ft. up. Mile town and station.

COTSWOLD FARMHOUSE

7 bedrooms, Bathroom, 2 reception.

Main water and electricity. "Aga" cooker.

GARAGES. FARM BUILDINGS. 5 COTTAGES.

Well-farmed land. Good pasture.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH POSSESSION

(part of land easily let off.)

NO TITHE

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (20,375.)

FOR SALE, REASONABLE PRICE **75 ACRES**
BASINGSTOKE

7 miles, another station 3 miles, near village, standing high

ATTRACTIVE GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

4 reception, 4 bathrooms, 11 bedrooms.

Main electricity. Telephone. Own water supply.

Garage. Hunter Stabling. Cottage.

CHARMING GARDENS, TENNIS LAWN,

WALLED KITCHEN GARDEN.

Rich pastureland and some woodland.

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (20,568.)

£4,500 **24 ACRE**
DEVON

15 miles from Exeter. 600ft. up. Extensive views.

FINE GEORGIAN TYPE RESIDENCE

4 reception, 3 bath, 9 bed (fitted basins).

Central heating. Telephone. Wired electric light.

GARAGE for 4. Stabling.

Nicely timbered grounds. Tennis and other lawns.

Kitchen garden. Orchard, pasture and woodland.

TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (8802.)

Telephone No.:
Regent 4304.

OSBORN & MERCER

MEMBERS OF THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' AND AUCTIONEERS' INSTITUTES

28b, ALBEMARLE STREET,
PICCADILLY, W.1

SOMERSET-WILTS-DORSET BORDERS

Readily accessible to London by express trains.

FOR SALE

AN EXCELLENT COUNTRY HOUSE

With modern appointments, standing in pleasant expensive gardens, enjoying good views over well-wooded country.

3 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.
2 Cottages. Stabling. Paddocks.

24 ACRES (or less if required)

Inspected and recommended by Sole Agents to anyone visiting an Inexpensive House in good social and sporting district. (17,183.)

25 MILES SOUTH OF TOWN

the centre of Surrey's best golf, 5 courses being within easy reach.

High up with uninterrupted views.

PICTURESQUE MODERN HOUSE

with 9 bedrooms, 3 reception, 2 bathrooms.

All main services. Central heating.

Cottage.

Lightful gardens, terraces, rock garden, hard tennis court, woodland, etc.

ABOUT 4 ACRES

For Sale by OSBORN & MERCER. (16,655.)

SUSSEX—Adjoining Golf Course.

700 ft. up with fine panoramic views over Ashdown Forest.

A DELIGHTFUL MODERN RESIDENCE BUILT IN THE TUDOR STYLE.



Hall, 2 reception, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

Thoroughly up-to-date and labour-saving, with all main services, central heating, lav. basins in bedrooms, etc.

Charming Gardens and Grounds, including lawns, rose and rock gardens, tennis court, kitchen garden, etc.; in all ABOUT 2 ACRES.

For Sale by OSBORN & MERCER. (M. 1945.)

DEVON

An attractive small Residential and Sporting Property.

UP-TO-DATE STONE-BUILT HOUSE

with 3 reception, 10 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Main electricity. Central heating.

Small Farm with Modern House and good Buildings.

HALF MILE OF TROUT FISHING.

FOR SALE WITH 16 OR 74 ACRES.

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER. (17,199.)

WILTS. ONLY £2,000.

About 400ft. up in an unspoilt typical Wiltshire village.

An attractive old Residence of the Cotswold style

with fine old beams, mullioned windows, etc.

Hall, 4 reception, 7 bedrooms, bathroom, usual offices.

Excellent water supply. Main electricity available.

Inexpensive gardens, ornamental trees, kitchen garden, etc., in all about 1 acre.

Full details from OSBORN & MERCER. (M. 2210.)

WILTS AND GLOS BORDERS

In a delightful rural district within easy reach of Malmesbury and Chippenham.

350ft. above sea level. South aspect.

A SMALL RESIDENTIAL ESTATE OF ABOUT 160 ACRES

A Modern House of character, well planned and up to date.

Lounge hall, 3 reception, 12 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Electric light. Central heating.

Farmery. Fine range of stabling. 3 cottages, etc. Charming gardens, finely timbered parks, rich old pasture, etc.

For Sale by OSBORN & MERCER. (17,267.)



OXON AND BUCKS BORDERS

ON THE WESTERN SLOPES OF THE CHILTERN HILLS

Completely rural. Fine panoramic views.

DELIGHTFUL SMALL MODERN HOUSE

Lounge hall, 3 reception, 8 bedrooms, bathroom.

Modern conveniences, Lodge. Stabling. Garage.

Matured gardens; hard tennis court. Paddock and woodland.

20 ACRES

For Sale by OSBORN & MERCER. (14,191.)



3, MOUNT STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

RALPH PAY & TAYLOR

Telephones:
Grosvenor 1032-33.

ANCIENT MEDIAEVAL HOUSE OF GREAT HISTORICAL INTEREST

In a really perfect state of preservation.

UNDOUBTEDLY A GEM OF ANTIQUITY (DATED A.D. 1250)

FIRST TIME IN MARKET FOR OVER 20 YEARS

Within a mile of station with electric services to City and West End in 25 minutes.



Drive with lodge. Well hidden from road. BANQUETING HALL a feature. 2 other large reception, 12 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. All main services. Central heating. FASCINATING PERIOD INTERIOR. Stabling, Garages, etc.

LOVELY GARDENS. OUTDOOR THEATRE. CLIPPED YEW. FINE OLD SHADY TREES. MONKS' (AVENUE) WALK. 2 LAKES. Paddocks and copse.

IN ALL ABOUT 10 ACRES FREEHOLD ONLY £7,000 (COST DOUBLE)

GREAT DEVELOPMENT VALUE

Confidently recommended from personal knowledge by Owner's Agents: Messrs. RALPH PAY & TAYLOR (as above) (1865)

400FT. UP AMIDST FAMOUS HILLS

12 miles from Oxford.

EXQUISITELY APPOINTED RESIDENCE, part dating back many years.

3 reception, 11 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms. Main water. Central heating. Electric light. Garages. Cottages. Hard court. Swimming pool. Matured gardens and meadow.

ABOUT 10 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

More land up to 100 acres (well let) can be purchased. (12,680.)

UNDER 20 MILES BY ROAD

400ft. up. Extensive views.

JACOBAN (RED BRICK) FARMHOUSE

Restored and modernised.

4 reception, 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Main water, electricity. Modern drainage. Stabling and garages. Pair of cottages. Attractive gardens. Grass and arable land.

IN ALL 10 ACRES

FREEHOLD £5,000

Or £4,000 (without cottages). (S.H.H.)

RESTFUL SOMERSET

Bath 6 miles.

LOVELY OLD "REGENCY" HOUSE

In perfect order and condition.

4 reception, 10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Electric light. Central heating. Water supply. Stabling. Garage. Delightful gardens, fine old trees, parklike pasture.

IN ALL ABOUT 16 ACRES

FREEHOLD £6,000

WOULD LET FURNISHED (P.T.O.)

INTERESTING LANDED ESTATES AND FARMS FOR OCCUPATION OR INVESTMENT

DEVONSHIRE

At the head of a well-known Valley.

FINE RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ESTATE of about 485 ACRES

Historical Residence. Long, low type, modernised at great expense. 3 FARMS. 2 sets of Modernised Buildings. 6 Cottages.

FOR SALE AS A WHOLE WITH POSSESSION OR WOULD BE DIVIDED

OWNER WOULD REMAIN ON AS A TENANT ON A 4 PER CENT. BASIS

Details of RALPH PAY & TAYLOR, as above.

IN A MUCH SOUGHT AFTER AGRICULTURAL COUNTY

BLOCK OF FARMS EXTENDING TO NEARLY

1,000 ACRES

Let to show a good return.

A SOUND INVESTMENT

BUCKS

Conveniently situated for station and market towns.

FIRST CLASS FEEDING FARM

EXTENDING TO ABOUT

195 ACRES

Bounded by the River Ouse and lying within a ring fence.

SMALL HISTORICAL MANOR HOUSE

AMPLE BUILDINGS. 3 COTTAGES.

Vacant possession.

FREEHOLD £9,000

(Outgoings £35 p.a.)

Particulars of the above and other ESTATES, FARMS, ETC., FOR INVESTMENT OR OCCUPATION, apply RALPH PAY & TAYLOR, 3, Mount Street, W.1.

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS

(ESTABLISHED 1778)

25, MOUNT STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.1.

Telephone No.:
Grosvenor 1553 (4 lines).

And at
Hobart Place, Eaton Sq.,
68, Victoria Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.

SIX MILES NEWBURY

To be let furnished for one year upwards.



ATTRACTIVE OLD-FASHIONED RESIDENCE in lovely position. Beautiful views. 15 bed, 3 bath, 4 rec. rooms. Main electricity. Electrically pumped water. Garage.

Lovely Gardens and Shooting over 3/400 acres Available from mid-May.

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (A.4239.)

38 MILES LONDON

For Business, Scholastic or similar purpose.



SPACIOUS MODERN MANSION

In accessible position, facing village green.

33 bed, 7 bath, 4 rec. rooms. Main water and electricity. Partial central heating. Constant hot water. Stabling. Garage and 2 cottages. Gardens and pasture land of about 20 ACRES. PRICE FREEHOLD £7,000.

6 ACRES. FOR SALE.

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (D.2402.)

GLOS. MUST BE SOLD

400ft. up. 10 minutes bus route. Safe area. FINE GEORGIAN RESIDENCE



With spacious rooms, ideal for school, business purposes, etc. 20 bed, 3 bath, 2 halls, 4 reception rooms, billiard room (now Chapel). Main electric light. Good water. Central heating. Radiators. Garage.

15 ACRES GROUNDS AND MEADOW SALE URGENTLY DESIRED

Owner's Agents: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (7223.)

44, ST. JAMES'S
PLACE, S.W.1.

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK

AGENTS FOR THE HOME COUNTIES, THE SHIRES
AND SPORTING COUNTIES GENERALLY

Telephone:
Regent 0911

ON THE FRINGE OF THE COTSWOLDS

In secluded position, 250ft. above sea level.

FOR PRIVATE OCCUPATION OR FOR BUSINESS PREMISES

COMMODOUS RESIDENCE, containing 4 reception rooms, billiard room, 20 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms. Large double cottage (temporarily let). Good walled kitchen garden. Richly timbered grounds and small park in all about 23 ACRES. PRICE FREEHOLD £6,750.

Inspected and thoroughly recommended by JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 12,013.)

DEVON

High and delightful position with excellent views.

MOST ATTRACTIVE STONE-BUILT RESIDENCE, containing 3 reception rooms, 6/8 bedrooms, bathroom. Stabling. Garage and outbuildings. Modern cottage and flat. Attractive gardens, orcharding and meadow, in all about 12 ACRES. FREEHOLD £4,000. JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 19,870.)

WILTSHIRE

Unspoiled country near the Downs, about 500ft. above sea level.

GEORGIAN RESIDENCE, with lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Electric light. Partial central heating. Constant hot water. Stabling. Garage and 2 cottages. Gardens and pasture land of about 20 ACRES. PRICE FREEHOLD £7,000.

Inspected and recommended by JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 19,671.)

HANTS AND BERKS BORDERS

In a quiet position, near a small village, facing south with pleasant outlook.

CHARMING QUEEN ANNE RESIDENCE, in excellent order. Accommodation: hall, 3 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Main electricity. Modern drainage. Stabling. Garage and outbuildings, including barn. Attractive garden, including lawns and excellent walled kitchen garden, in all about 2 ACRES.

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 14,036.)

DORSET

in an excellent sporting and social district.

DELIGHTFUL COUNTRY RESIDENCE, containing 3 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Main electricity. Good cottage. Inexpensive grounds, including tennis lawn, together with pasture land of 11 ACRES. PRICE £4,000.

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 10,749.)

SOMERSET

300ft. above sea level, quiet position and within easy reach of main line station (London just over two hours.)

GEORGIAN STYLE RESIDENCE, containing hall, 3 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms, dressing rooms and 2 bathrooms. Main water and electricity. Partial central heating. Excellent stabling. Garage and useful outbuildings. 3 cottages. Attractive and well-timbered old-world garden and orcharding of 6 ACRES.

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 19,845.)

Telephone:
Grosvenor 2252
(6 lines)

CONSTABLE & MAUDE

2, MOUNT STREET, LONDON, W.1

SURREY

25 miles from London.

A SUPERB HALF-TIMBERED HOUSE

Dating from the 15th century.

Entrance hall, magnificent galleried dining hall, 2 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms. Excellent offices. Main water, central heating. Lodge. Cottage. LOVELY OLD GARDENS.

ABOUT 20 ACRES FOR SALE, OR WOULD BE LET FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED.

Agents: CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.1.

IDEAL FOR LARGE COMMERCIAL ORGANISATION LARGE WEST COUNTRY MANSION

containing about 40 bedrooms and ample bathrooms. Several cottages.

ABOUT 200 ACRES

FREEHOLD FOR SALE PRIVATELY, WITH THE FURNITURE.

Agents: CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.1.

WILTSHIRE

EXCEPTIONALLY ATTRACTIVE ESTATE IN MINIATURE

2 halls, 4 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Every convenience and comfort.

Garage. Stabling. 2 Lodges. Lovely gardens and park. ABOUT 84 ACRES FREEHOLD FOR SALE

Sole Agents:

CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.1.

SOMERSET AN ATTRACTIVE JACOBINE-STYLE HOUSE

with stone tiled roof, in perfect order.

Hall, 4 reception rooms, billiard room, 12 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Central heating. Main electric light and power. Garage. Stabling. 2 cottages. Excellent gardens. Walled kitchen garden.

ABOUT 12 ACRES FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Agents: CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.1.

BERKSHIRE

SUITABLE FOR A SCHOOL OR OFFICES.

ATTRACTIVE SQUARE-BUILT HOUSE containing 4 reception rooms, billiard room, conservatory, 17 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms; usual offices, including servants' hall. Also 5 rooms in semi-basement. Lodge. Excellent stabling. Garage for 3 cars. Chauffeur's quarters. In all about 6 Acres.

PRICE £15,000

A further 16 Acres including a model farmery and 4 cottages can be had if required.

Agents: CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.1.

COTSWOLDS

ATTRACTIVE GEORGIAN HOUSE

on the outskirts of a village.

7 principal bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, billiard room, usual offices.

Central heating throughout. Main electric light. Water and drainage. 2 cottages.

LODGE. ABOUT 7 ACRES FREEHOLD FOR SALE

Agents: CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.1.

NEAR TIVERTON, DEVON.—For SALE BY AUCTION on June 24th exceptionally nice RESIDENCE, outbuildings and 105 acres fertile land. Particulars from KNOWLMAN & SONS, Auctioneers, Culmstock, Devon.

LAND, ESTATES AND OTHER PROPERTIES WANTED

WANTED.—To purchase, a property in the South-West Midlands, comprising a house and farming land of about 200 acres, good cattle land. The house to consist of 8-10 bedrooms in all, 3 reception, etc.; stabling and garage. Situated on or near lake or river preferred. Particulars to Box 736, c/o COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

WANTED TO RENT, Furnished or partly furnished Country House in Devon, Dorset or Wilts. Accommodation required: 22 bedrooms, 5 reception rooms, servants' hall, main services; about 2 miles from main line station and on bus route; grounds about 7 acres.—Particulars to Box 736, c/o COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

HAMPSHIRE & SOUTHERN COUNTIES
17, Above Bar, Southampton. WALLER & KING, F.A.I.
Business Established over 100 years.

NEW EDITION NOW READY
DEVON AND S. W. COUNTIES
THE ONLY COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED REGISTER.
Price 2/6.
SELECTED LISTS FREE.
RIPPON, BOSWELL & CO., F.A.I.,
(Est. 1884.) EXETER.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND ADJOINING COUNTIES
HOLLOWAY, PRICE & CO.,
(ESTABLISHED 1809.) MARKET HARBOUROUGH.
LAND AGENTS, AUCTIONEERS, VALUERS
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT VALUATIONS FOR PROBATE

SCOTLAND—SOUTH AYRSHIRE

(Safe area.)

TO LET FURNISHED, BALKISSOCK, BALLANTRAE

IDEAL COUNTRY HOUSE. Everything most modern and beautifully furnished (inland from sea) but with delightful sea, etc., views in one of healthiest parts of Scotland. Contains 4 public rooms, 3 suites of bedrooms with dressing rooms and bathrooms, and 1 bedroom with bathroom; also good staff accommodation. Most attractive squash court. Famous Turnberry Golf Course reasonably near. Fishing and first-class shooting can also be had.—Apply, ROBERT WELSH, F.A.I., Ayr.

£6,000 FREEHOLD—HINDHEAD.—With immediate possession. A bright and sunny house planned all on two floors. Beautifully positioned with fine view. Complete central heating with radiators in all rooms. 10 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 reception. Well-planned kitchen, servants' quarters, gardener's cottage. Garage for 3. Inexpensive garden of 4 acres. Strongly recommended as an excellent property in first-class order. Owner's agents: Messrs. ALFRED SAVILL & SONS, 180, High Street, Guildford. Tel.: 1857 (2 lines).

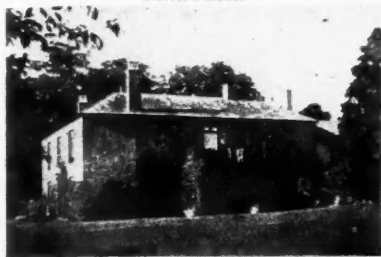
5, MOUNT STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

CURTIS & HENSON

Telephones:
Grosvenor 3131 (3 lines).
ESTABLISHED 1875.

SOMERSETSHIRE

Yeovil 7 miles.



STONE-BUILT MANOR HOUSE

With old mullioned windows, standing in finely timbered grounds.

4 reception rooms, 11 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, model offices. Electric light. Main water. GARAGE AND STABLING. Gardener's cottage.

CHARMING GARDENS AND GROUNDS

interspersed with matured specimen timber trees, walled kitchen garden and pastureland; in all about 9½ ACRES.

PRICE £3,250 FREEHOLD

CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (16,325).

MERIONETHSHIRE

Amidst the wooded hills of North Wales. 4½ miles from the sea and with views of the Mountain of Cader Idris.

Compact Residence in excellent order.

Galleried hall. 4 reception rooms, domestic offices, 11 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms. Electric light. Central heating. Garages and Stabling. Outbuildings. Cottages and 2 Farms are let.

Lovely Pleasure Grounds. Kitchen Garden. Picturesque and Valuable Woodlands in all about

750 ACRES

Fishing in the River Mawdach which bounds the property on one side and also in the River Gwyntant from both banks for over a mile and in a small lake. Shooting over the Estate.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (10,950.)

DORSETSHIRE

Semley Station (main line) 1¼ miles.



BUILT OF STONE, with tiled roof. 500ft. above sea level in beautiful country full of historical interest. Situated in a quiet village with lovely views.

3 reception rooms, 7 bed and dressing rooms, 2 nurseries, 2 bathrooms.

Electric light. Main water supply. Garage. Stabling for 3 and outbuildings.

GROUPS, ORCHARD and FIELD.

TO LET FURNISHED

CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (16,170.)

SURREY (ABOUT 45 MILES FROM LONDON)

A MODERN HOUSE IN THE GEORGIAN STYLE



with almost all modern improvements and labour-saving devices.

3 RECEPTION ROOMS. 10 BEDROOMS.
8 BATHROOMS.

GARAGE. LODGE.

Central heating, main water and electricity, modern drainage.

SECLUDED GROUNDS SCREENED BY FINE TREES, WIDE LAWNS, HERBACEOUS BORDERS, FORMAL GARDENS.

IN ALL ABOUT 2½ ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Further particulars of CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (16,008.)



JACKSON STOPS & STAFF

8, HANOVER STREET, LONDON, W.1.

AND AT NORTHAMPTON, CIRENCESTER, LEEDS AND YEOVIL.

TEL.: MAYFAIR 3316.



SOMERSET

GEORGIAN HOUSE



6 miles from Sherborne.
3 reception rooms.
5 bedrooms.
2 bathrooms.

Garage for 2 cars.

COTTAGE.

Main services.

Pleasant grounds.

Tennis lawn.

1½ ACRES

ONLY £3,500

VACANT POSSESSION

Sole Agents: JACKSON STOPS & STAFF, 29, Princes Street, Yeovil. (Tel.: 1066.)

HAMPSHIRE

MINIATURE ESTATE

2¼ miles from New Milton.

3 reception rooms.
Billiards room.
6 principal bedrooms.
4 secondary bedrooms.
2 bathrooms.

Central heating.
Garage for 3 cars.
Main services.

Lodge, 4 cottages.
Stabling. Small farm-buildings.

48 ACRES

PRICE £6,000 FREEHOLD

EARLY POSSESSION.

Agents: JACKSON STOPS & STAFF, 8, Hanover Street, London, W.1. (Tel.: Mayfair 3316.)



184, BROMPTON RD.,
LONDON, S.W.3

BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY

TELEPHONE:
KEN: 0855

HAMPSHIRE BARGAIN

CHARMING RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER

Every convenience. Perfect order. 3 fine reception, billiards, 10 bedrooms, 2 baths. Main water. Electric light. Central heating.

Inexpensive gardens. Farm buildings. 2 cottages.

60 ACRES FREEHOLD ONLY £5,500

BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY (as above).

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c.4



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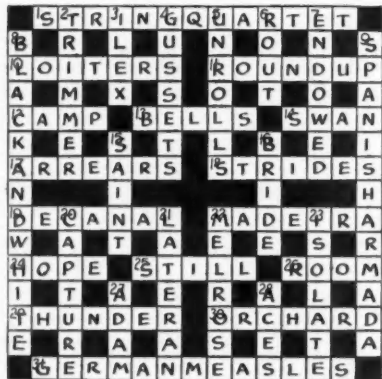
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SOLUTION to No. 594

The winner of this crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of June 14 will be announced next week.

**ACROSS.**

- 1 and 5. It was Robin Hood's demesne (two words, 8, 6)
9. An Angus with four legs (8)
10. Anagram of 30 (6)
11. The minister's refuge (8)
13. Plant for a horse (6)
14. This must be won back without delay (3)
16. The drink he makes is part of him (6)
19. Answer the question, "What river to write down?" where a soldier is concerned (7)
20. Temper (6)
21. Queer island, but it goes down well with the 1 down (3)
26. Dispersed in rage but disposed to get back (6)
27. A fabric or for a fabric (8)
28. "Home is the sailor, home from sea And the — home from the hill."—R. L. Stevenson (6)
29. "Coat bars" (anagr.) (8)
- 30 and 31. The makers of the cathedrals were no prentices (two words, 6, 8)

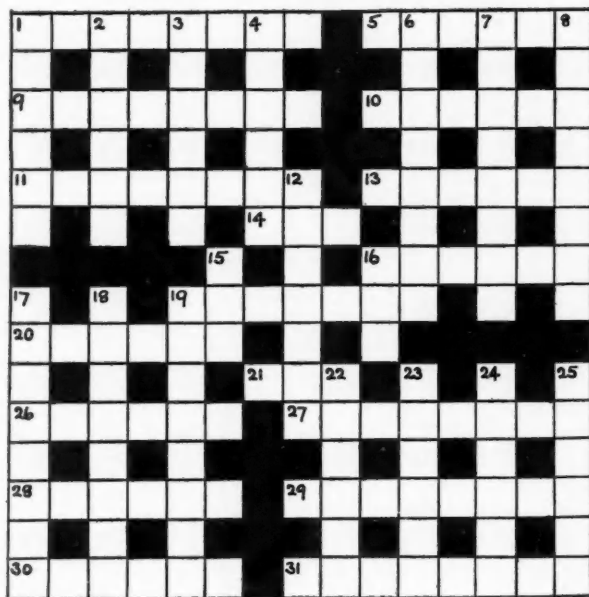
"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 595

A prize of books to the value of two guineas, drawn from those published by COUNTRY LIFE, will be awarded for the first correct solution to this puzzle opened in this office. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 595, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the **first post on the morning of Thursday, June 26, 1941.**

The winner of
Crossword No. 593 is
Mrs. Poulter,
127, Argyle Road,
Ealing, W.13

DOWN.

1. Twelve points to this man (6)
2. Alters for the better, or, as the Cockney might say, he gets better (6)
3. Birds that don't get their legs wet? (6)
4. No robe can be made to fit this king (6)
6. Gushes (8)
7. "A woeful ballad made to his mistress' —" —Shakespeare (8)
8. Their falls need not necessarily be off tables (8)
12. What an Italian quack has called the Mediterranean (7)
15. "The holy time is quiet as a — Breathless with adoration." —Wordsworth (3)
16. Do this in to make a start (3)
17. Just the place—and food—for a seaside picnic? (8)
18. They are out for booty and must get into ships (8)
19. A capital dog, as it might have been called (8)
22. However ancient this imperial dynasty, its beginnings are human (6)
23. Effect of shooting (6)
24. City of illusion, perhaps (6)
25. Blows up, they do (6)

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 595

Name

Address

COUNTRY LIFE

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1941

Vol. LXXXIX. No. 2318



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"Country Life"

MISS JEAN MEADE

Miss Jean Meade is the younger daughter of Admiral the Hon. Sir Herbert Meade Fetherstonhaugh, G.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., and Lady Meade Fetherstonhaugh, of Uppark, Sussex. Her engagement to Lieut-Col. Michael Babington Smith who is at present serving overseas was recently announced. A photograph specially taken for COUNTRY LIFE at Uppark

COUNTRY LIFE

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"Country Life" Crossword No. 595 p. xiv.

POSTAL CHARGES.—The Editor reminds correspondents and contributors that any communications requiring a reply must be accompanied by the requisite stamps. Notice is given that MSS. submitted will not be returned unless this condition is complied with.

POSTAGES ON THIS ISSUE : INLAND 2½d., CANADA 1½d., ABROAD 2½d.

POTATOES AND POLICY

DURING the last few months farmers have frequently complained that they have been unable to dispose of their stocks of potatoes, and have criticised the official policy of still further increasing our potato acreage. Whether such criticisms are justified or not seems to us to depend on whether an additional acreage is the whole of the official policy for potatoes. As was pointed out in a recent Commons debate, far too much attention has been paid to the number of acres under the plough, and far too little to the yield of these acres, for man cannot eat acres. If adequate steps have not been taken to ensure the maximum production of each acre under potatoes as well as for the most efficient use of the crop there can be little doubt that much of the criticism is justified.

The potato can produce more stable human food per acre than any of our other crops, and increasing our production and consumption of potatoes is an obvious way of making our food supplies less dependent on imports. But it is an expensive crop to grow, as it needs much labour, and labour is short. Actually very little more labour is needed to produce a good crop than a poor one, so that in addition to the necessity of getting the maximum from our limited land there is this important reason for stressing yield per acre with potatoes.

Before the war our average yield was between six and seven tons per acre, although good potato growers were not satisfied with anything less than twice this. Obviously, therefore, with our pre-war acreage there was plenty of scope for increasing production. There were four main reasons for our low average: the planting of poor seed, under-manuring, loss from attacks of Blight, and the lifting of immature crops. If precautions have been taken to reduce losses from these causes, then the more acres we have under potatoes the more secure our food position will be. But if they have not, some of the land carrying potatoes would be better under some other crop needing less labour.

Last year the lifting of main-crop varieties was prohibited before August 1, but this restriction alone could do little to prevent loss of yield by premature lifting, as half the ware was formed after that date. Coupled with price restrictions, so that potatoes were dearer in later months than in August and September, however, the loss may have been minimised, for the interests of the nation and the farmer were made to coincide by arranging for the largest crop to give the greatest financial return. This year the growing season is late, and early lifting may be expected to result in more serious losses than usual. It is to be hoped, therefore, that there will be even more stringent control over prices and lifting dates. Even if there is a shortage of potatoes in August and September, there should be no relaxation of the control, for we can manage with fewer in the summer, when other vegetables are plentiful, but we may need all we can produce next winter and spring.

The fact that there was an apparent surplus of potatoes last year is no ground for criticising an increased acreage this year. We cannot again expect such a dry summer and complete absence of the dreaded Blight, and part of our increased planting is a reasonable insurance against losses from this disease. It is doubtful, however, if there was a real surplus last year. It is true that many tons were dried and turned into cattle food, but this is evidence of a willingness to subsidise the feeding of cattle rather than of people. Before the war the average consumption of potatoes in this country was 210lb., whereas in Germany, France and Belgium it was 400lb. Thus there is considerable opportunity for increasing the eating of potatoes,

which would be valuable for several reasons. The amount of bread eaten would fall and our imports of wheat could be reduced, while the Vitamin C content of the extra potatoes would help to compensate for our reduced imports of fruit. A change in the food habits of the population, however, will not come about automatically, but only as a result of necessity or a positive policy. The most obvious step is, to retail potatoes at a low enough price to compete favourably with bread, for it was clearly shown by the Potato Marketing Board before the war, in their Bishop Auckland tests, that price is a serious factor in limiting consumption. At present prices bread is the cheaper food, as well as having the additional attractions of no waste and needing no cooking. If precautions are taken to see that maximum yields are obtained, the cost of producing potatoes could probably be considerably reduced, but to encourage the consumption of this home-produced crop it would be well worth while to retail at less than production cost. This would entail a subsidy, but there seems no logical objection to this when bread and meat, and potatoes for cattle feed, are already subsidised. With such a policy there should also be wide publicity against waste, for before the war the produce of at least 100,000 acres found its way as peelings to the waste bucket. Even with our pig clubs, such waste cannot be countenanced now.

ANIMALS AND AIR RAIDS

TOO little is known of the National A.R.P. for Animals Committee, which is, under its Chief Executive Officer Colonel R. J. Stordy, doing most admirable work of many different kinds. Colonel Stordy, has recently published a report on its activities which includes a section dealing with the behaviour of animals in air raids. So far as horses are concerned it is pointed out that all the elaborate devices for restraining horses in public places that were envisaged before the war began have proved entirely unnecessary. The falling of high explosive in his neighbourhood seems to have had little effect on the street horse, already trained to the noises of motor traffic, and he apparently treats a bomb as a sort of exaggerated back-fire. Large numbers of horses have been removed from blazing stables in London without any signs of panic. There have been no reports of cattle stampeding under "blitz" conditions, but dairy cows have shown the result of nervous disturbance in a diminished milk yield. The report on pigs which were housed in a bombed slaughter-house shows that they went on "sleeping sonorously" though the roof was blown to pieces above them. Sheep are nervous and scatter, but they are easily folded again after bombing has ceased. Oddly enough, dogs and cats appear to react much like their human owners. They "exhibited some nervousness," says the Report, when they had their first experience of bombing, but they now seem to take it as a matter of course. It is a pitiful sight in a bombed street to see a cat starving on a non-existent hearthrug opposite a fire that has burnt out once for all, but there is a certain sense of comic relief to be found in the last recommendation of the Report that those who own cats and dogs should practise wearing their gas-masks for the sake of their pets. A striking example of the need for this precaution seems to have been afforded by the lady owner of a terrier who put on her mask and (without warning) went down on all fours to play with her pet. The dog ran out and has not been seen since.

BARE RUINED QUIRES

IT is hoped that first-aid measures will so far reinforce the shaken steeples of St. Mary-le-Bow and St. Bride's that they will not have to be taken down, which is reported to be likely. St. Bride's is almost hidden by Fleet Street buildings, but Bow spire has uplifted more hearts to heaven on its exquisite flight than any London monument after the silhouette of St. Paul's. It would be a grievous loss. As the debris is cleared it becomes possible to see the havoc wrought in the heart of the City. Besides the churches, several of the older Halls have been destroyed: Mercers' and Haberdashers' Halls were among the best of those dating from the Wren period. Several exhibitions open in London now contain pictures that reveal the dismal beauty of London's ruins: Mr. Ernest Thesiger's *Military Objectives*? at the Fine Art Society are first-rate water-colour drawings of the City Churches, and Mr. Frank Beresford shows at the Suffolk Street Galleries an impressive painting of Middle Temple Hall. Temple Church, by the way, is thought to be repairable. The choir is scarcely damaged, while the walls of the round church appear sound. It is not generally realised that the conical roof was a nineteenth-century restoration, and not a very successful one at that, previously to which it had a flat roof.

MIDSUMMER

EVERY June we may remember the eleven days struck from the calendar in the eighteenth century, for Midsummer seems always to be upon us when summer has barely begun. But this is not the only sense in which Midsummer is not what it was—a time when rent, both serious and frivolous, had to be paid. Every countryman knows the old lines of which one version runs:

And when the tenants come to pay their quarter's rent,
They bring a fowl at Midsummer, a dish of fish in Lent,
At Christmas a capon, at Michaelmas a goose,
And somewhat else at New-year's tide for fear the lease flies loose.

Of the deliberately "awkward" kind of peppercorn rent was the famous "snowball at Midsummer and red rose at Christmas": vastly easier was the charge on the lord of the manor of Stene and Hinton, who had



MIDDLE TEMPLE HALL

A painting by Frank Beresford at the United Society of Artists' Exhibition, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall

to render his one red rose to the King annually on the Feast of St. John the Baptist. Many old leases thus made no mention of the word Midsummer: rent days were the Feasts of Our Lady, of St. John the Baptist, of St. Michael the Archangel, and of the Nativity of Our Lord. Nor were peppercorn rents necessarily fixed to these dates: both the town of Yarmouth and the manor of Carlton were bound to pay the King 24 pies or pasties "of fresh herrings at their first coming in." But the city of Gloucester made its annual presentation to the King of a pie of lampreys "covered with a large raised crust" at Christmas, which was more difficult since lampreys, though common enough in May, were so scarce in December that a guinea each had sometimes to be paid for them. A few of these picturesque peppercorn rents survive. The Dukes of Wellington and Marlborough still make presentations on fixed anniversaries, and the maintenance of England's only surviving gibbet, on Inkpen Beacon, is still a condition of a neighbouring farmer's tenure.

RIDING IN SPRING RAIN

My horse stamps and swings beneath me,
Eager, eager for the smell of Earth.
Joyous he breasts the silver torrents,
As though he too had suffered dearth.
Up from his neck and flanks
Curl white steam feathers; he pricks his ears
Sees sudden grasses, clear, from trees and bushes,
Green laughter hears.
The sky winks, blue like lightning; then once again
Torrents of Spring sweep over and through us,
And we are happy; in War's spite we are happy,
Riding in the Spring rain.

M. NEWTON.

AT LORD'S AGAIN

OXFORD and Cambridge have kept the ball of sport rolling as far as is possible and beneficial. Last year there was a Boat Race, though over a shorter course and at Henley. The football players of both codes, and the runners and jumpers have met, but not on their London battlefields. Now the cricketers, who did not meet last year, are to have a match and, what is more, it is to be at Lord's! True it is to be only a one-day match, that day being June 28, but nothing can take away the fact that it is to be at its traditional home. It is, moreover, to be played for something more than its own sake, since all the proceeds are to go to the Red Cross. How much of the old atmosphere will accompany the match it is hard to prophesy, but it is to be hoped that the traditional country parson will be there, even though he has to take a late train in order to get home for Sunday. The fact that it is played on Saturday, though it may be hard on him, will be good for the world in general, and given decent weather, of which this summer has so far been singularly grudging, there ought to be a good crowd for a good cause. It is to be hoped that the players will get some sort of war-time "blues" to mark the occasion, even though they have to expend a coupon or two. Caps at any rate are exempt from the rationing regulation, and it is the cap which is the chief glory of colours.

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

A Heron Syndicate—Peregrines' Hebridean Headquarters—
The Lay-out of a Rabbit Warren—The Windabouts of Britain

By MAJOR C. S. JARVIS

IT would seem that the heron, like the peregrine falcon, is one of those birds that have organised communities where a general reserve is maintained in connection with the replacement of casualties. The particular trout stream in which I am interested has several recognised heron beats on it, and on these every day one will see a bird at work, either standing motionless in a shallow or stalking gingerly up a runnel in search of a resting trout.

On each beat there is one heron, and one heron only, and it would seem a reasonable conclusion, if this bird is shot, that this particular stretch of water would be free from heron poaching for some considerable time; but nothing of the sort. The following day, or at latest in three days' time, the heron's successor is at work carrying on as efficiently as the original lessee of the beat, and if this bird should become a casualty he is replaced in the same way. One can only conclude that when the birds return to the heronry in the evening the roll is called, and the adjutant reports that old Uncle Longbill on beat No. 15 has "stopped a packet" as we put it in the last war, and immediately details the next heron on the roster for the vacant post.

ON the other hand, the various waters worked by this particular heronry are not all of the same quality. Some are small streams where secondary fish, such as dace, rudd and grayling, are more plentiful than trout; others are marshes where only frogs exist; and on the trout streams themselves the beats vary considerably, for several have been over-fished, while on others the preponderance of weed makes visibility difficult, not to mention the fact that some stretches, owing to river keepers and the existence of good cover, are infinitely more dangerous than those situated in open fields. Perhaps, therefore, a heron fishery is run on precisely the same lines as a human anglers' syndicate and the birds take their turns on the various beats; or, on the other hand, it may be organised on the seniority basis but, one hopes, not by influence and wire-pulling. That some sort of communal control is exercised is obvious, for one never sees herons squabbling over hunting areas as one does blackbirds, thrushes and various other small birds, and the whole business seems to be organised very thoroughly—far too thoroughly from the trout-fisher's point of view.

WITH regard to the peregrine falcon, I remember reading many years ago an article by a well-known ornithologist, describing the methods by which this bird replaces casualties. On the southern coast of Britain the peregrine is not very plentiful and all the nesting sites, which are many miles apart, are well known, but if one falcon of these isolated pairs is shot another bird of the required sex is almost immediately to be seen carrying on the work of its predecessor. There can be no question of filling vacancies locally as the birds do not exist, and it is this ornithologist's view that the big peregrine reserve and matrimonial agency is situated in the Hebrides, and that a bereaved falcon goes there immediately to select a new mate. Or possibly the news is sent through by some sixth sense of which we are in ignorance, but which we know animals and birds possess, and the young hen or cock falcon at the top of the waiting list is told to start at once for the Isle of Wight where a vacancy exists.

It is said also that in the early autumn, when the young birds leave their parents, they fly off to the Hebrides, where they find their mates and are allotted to their various areas. Owing to the fact that war has been declared on the peregrine falcon in the interest of the Royal Air Force carrier-pigeons, there must be considerable activity in the Hebridean headquarters office with the staff working overtime in an endeavour to cope with the casualties.

I HAVE had sent to me by a correspondent an interesting little booklet entitled *From Poverty to Prosperity in Agriculture* by A. E. Farr. It deals with the eradication of the rabbit pest, and is illustrated by photographs showing derelict fields where the rabbit has obtained the upper hand and the same fields a year later when Mr. Farr's method of dealing with the animal has been employed.

An interesting feature of the pamphlet is the photograph of a model cast, made by the author, of an ordinary subterranean warren. When one looks at the amazing turns and hairpin bends, cul-de-sacs, by-passes and subsidiary routes one realises the difficulty the ferret has to cope with underground, and feels that one has judged her unjustly on those occasions when after half an hour's work one is annoyed because she has failed to bolt several rabbits from a well-tenanted warren. It must be no mean achievement to bolt one, and it is easy to understand from the picture of this cast why it is quite impossible to exterminate rabbits in a warren by means of ferrets.

In many parts of the country the rabbit appears to have been practically eliminated, for one may wander round previously infested areas with a gun and never see a white scut on the most likely of warm evenings, but the rabbit is still there and in some considerable numbers, as the condition of the growing corn at the edges of the field shows. Mr. Farr does not state what his method for the extermination of the pest is, but the efficiency of it is corroborated by the letters of two senior agricultural officials of Herefordshire.

IN a recent article in COUNTRY LIFE entitled *Hedge Wise* there was mention of the "Chestertonian windabouts" of English roads, particularly those in Essex and Kent, and it is interesting when one strikes a road with an abnormal number of twists and turns in it to try to arrive at the reasons for each particular divergence. The probability is that a considerable number of our by-roads follow the line of the original tracks worn by the ancient Britons in the days when

only the hillsides were cultivated and the low-lying land was practically impassable, being either dense forest or a jungle of brambles and alder. According to many of our authorities the only method of finding the way across country in those days was by means of "leys," or sighting marks of various types, such as mounds, or tumuli, and clumps of Scots fir for high land, and pools of water, or dew-ponds, for lower levels. The syllable "ley" at the end of a place-name, in the opinion of the author, is a proof that it was at one time a sighting point on an ancient British highway, and an area just above my house, called Chatley, certainly appears to bear out this contention, for there is a most conspicuous tumulus at the highest point, a second one with a clump of Scots firs—the descendants of the originals—a mile away to the east, and another conspicuous conical hill with a tumulus two miles to the west. The only drawback to the theory in this case is that at the present time there is no direct track linking up the various points.

A RURAL CHARTER—I

SOIL CONSERVATION & FOOD SUPPLIES

By G. V. JACKS

[Erosion due to soil exploitation is one of the big problems that will have to be faced by the post-war world. In the following article Mr. Jacks emphasises its significance for every one of us. He points out that as one food-exporting country after another revolutionises its husbandry in order to preserve its fertility—as the United States has already done, and as Canada is now doing—the produce available for European markets will dwindle, and consequently that importing countries like ours will have to grow more in order to live. He does not anticipate "a sudden major decline," from this cause, in exports to Europe, but he shows clearly the importance of taking a long view of our own agricultural problems and how vital it is to see them against a background of world conditions. The second article in our series, in which Viscount Lynton will discuss "The Political Issue," will appear next week.—ED.]

DURING the last hundred years or so an almost universal process of soil exhaustion has been going on in the more recently settled regions of the world, including North and South America, Australia, New Zealand and Africa. Over immense areas, totalling some hundred million square miles, the process has reached the stage at which the soil loses the natural coherence associated with fertility and falls a ready prey to the erosive action of rain and wind. As a consequence very large areas have

been denuded of all productive soil, and the rest is threatened with complete denudation unless the process of exhaustion by agriculture is checked. A continuation of the types of agriculture that have been practised on these eroding lands spells ruin to the countries concerned.

Past and present farmers who have exhausted the soils of the New World should not be blamed for the very menacing position which has arisen as a result of their activities. They acted in response to economic forces outside their control, chief among which was an almost insatiable demand for food from the industrial populations of Europe. They bled the land to the bone to feed Europe. They needed to export as much agricultural produce as they could to earn the capital required for their settlement and development. In exporting the produce, however, they were also exporting the fertility and stability of their soils. Nobody could have foreseen that the result would be the physical destruction of the soil, nor, if the result had been foreseen, could anybody have prevented it. Under the world conditions prevailing during the nineteenth century and until very recently, the ruthless exploitation of the fertility of the New World was inevitable.

A reaction, however, was bound to set in sooner or later as each country began to feel the cumulative effects of the exhaustion of its chief natural resource. These effects were already being felt in small degree, before the

THE main Ringwood-Salisbury road runs very obviously along the line of the old packhorse track that wound up the valley of the Avon before the days of Elizabethan coaches and heavy wagons, for here one finds those regular and symmetrical curves every 200 yds., first to the right and then to the left, that are a feature of all roads made by various laden animals—horses, mules, donkeys, camels, and even llamas. I do not know if there is any scientific explanation why beasts of burden should follow winding curves as they do, but it is very marked on all the main caravan tracks across the Sahara Desert, and the regular 200 yd. curves on the famous *Darb el Arbain* (Forty Days Road), along which slaves were brought from central Africa to Cairo until the '60s, are repeated on the Ringwood-Salisbury road to the despair of the Wiltshire and Hampshire road departments, who are striving to bend it into a straight motor highway, but with little success.

last war, in the United States, where enlightened opinion had realised the necessity of adopting a policy of conserving the soil by reducing the export of its fertility and developing more self-contained agriculture, but after the war all such policies were forgotten in face of the urgent and highly profitable task of feeding famished Europe. There was a nation-wide scramble to squeeze out of the land every ounce of produce that it would yield, while the going was good. There followed an unprecedented agricultural depression, and it was then that the people of the United States took stock of their position and awoke to the sweeping and calamitous advance of soil exhaustion and erosion.

Within the last decade a veritable revolution has been taking place in the United States from soil-consuming to soil-conserving agriculture. Although the spectacle of the desolation caused by erosion acted as a powerful stimulus, it was the depression that initiated the revolutionary movement. The depression was due in large measure to the drying-up of foreign markets, and bore heavily on all the great agricultural exporting countries. Economic nationalism in Europe took the profit out of the export of soil fertility. The United States alone, however, took positive steps to discourage production for export and subsequently to concentrate to a greater extent than hitherto on supplying the home market.

The productive capacity of the United



THE ENDLESS EXPANSES OF WHEAT AND COTTON ON THE PRAIRIES ARE GIVING PLACE TO A NEW PATTERN OF AGRICULTURE THAT REFLECTS MORE CLOSELY THE NATURAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN A STABLE HUMAN COMMUNITY AND ITS LAND

Rotation farming on the contour conserves the soil of eroded, formerly cotton, land in Texas

States greatly exceeds the consuming capacity of the population. It was impossible to find an outlet at home for everything the land could produce. Consequently, a general movement developed away from arable towards grassland farming and the growing of crops which can be consumed by the farm itself. It happens that grass and fodder crops are among the best conservers of soil fertility known to agriculture; the close carpet of vegetation effectively protects the soil from erosion, and much of what the plants take from the soil is subsequently returned to it, with the addition of humus in the form of manure or the dead residues of the plants. So it came about that the great depression, by compelling farmers to change from human-food to soil-food crops, set in motion a vast movement towards soil conservation that steadily gathered momentum in the following years and is already effectively checking the progress of soil exhaustion.

CONTOUR CULTIVATION

In the beginning of the soil-conservation movement in the United States (*i.e.* in the early 1930's) farmers had to be heavily bribed to stop them from continuing to exhaust their land. More than the bribes (such as the subsidies on non-exportation administered under the Agricultural Adjustment Act) were offered not to encourage conservative farming, but to check the accumulation of unsellable surpluses of grain, cotton, tobacco, etc. Very soon, however, it became apparent that this enforced rest from the production of export crops at the lowest possible cost was just what was needed to enable a fresh start to be made with farming on a soil-conserving basis. Land retired from cultivation ceased to erode when it became covered with natural vegetation. Intensive investigations were made to determine what economic plants would equally prevent erosion. In general it was found that erosion could be stopped and the fertility of exhausted land restored by crop rotations which included several years under perennial grasses and legumes in place of extensive monoculture, and by carrying out all cultivation operations strictly along the contours of the land instead of in straight rows in whatever direction was most convenient. This is a type of farming that demands considerable skill from the farmer, but it preserves the soil and, once the necessary skill has been acquired, can be worked at least as profitably as the old-style agriculture.

Systems of mixed and rotational farming on the contour are now becoming general throughout the United States, particularly in the Great Plains. The endless expanses of wheat and cotton on the prairies are giving place to a new pattern of agriculture that reflects more closely the natural relationship which should exist between a stable human community and its land.

Wherever such types of conservation farming have been adopted there has been an immediate improvement in the well-being of the community. Hope for the future has succeeded the despair born of the increasing dereliction of the land, and the American farmer is learning that a small but assured return from well tended soil is better than the violent ups and downs of fortune to which reliance on the world price of a single crop exposed him. For the first time he is finding economic security in a form of farming that is tending to become self-contained. The United States has already virtually dropped out of the export market for grain, and will not return to it.

The United States had made a virtue of necessity. It had to make changes in its traditional cropping practices to provide for the loss of foreign markets, and it has incorporated those changes into a comprehensive soil-conservation programme which has been so successful that its permanence is assured. The programme postulates the development of a nationalistic, self-contained agriculture which keeps soil fertility at home.

It is now becoming recognised throughout the world that the surest answer to the menace of soil erosion is more self-contained agriculture. Erosion has been worst in countries which export a large proportion of the produce, and therefore the fertility, of the soil, but a country whose whole economy is based on agricultural exports does not willingly discard that base, even to save its soil. The war, however, has practically closed the European



A DEEP GULLY FORMED BY THE EROSION OF OVER-GRAZED PASTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA

market, and in default of an alternative, the great agricultural exporting countries are being compelled to restrict the production of export crops, and some are taking the opportunity thus presented to ensure that sound conservation practices are introduced at the same time. In Canada the wheat-restriction programme includes a bonus of four dollars for every acre of wheatland "fallowed in such a way as to conserve soil moisture and prevent soil drifting," and two dollars for every acre sown to a soil-conserving crop such as grass or lucerne. Where the reduction of export crops is combined with sound conservation practices—as it always can be, for the one is a natural complement to the other—it may be confidently anticipated that the reduction will be permanent and cumulative, for the benefits accruing to the farmers through the improved condition of the land are also permanent and cumulative.

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

In our tropical colonies, also, the war has presented a golden opportunity for the introduction of soil-conserving agriculture. Hitherto circumstances have promoted the development of soil-exhausting agricultural systems, and erosion has been very severe and sometimes disastrous in many colonies. Only exceptionally has the fertility of tropical land been maintained under continuous agriculture. The natives are seldom settled agriculturists by nature, and Europeans have farmed primarily for export with the object of buying with the proceeds some of the amenities of the civilisation they left behind them. As a result the anomalous position has arisen that many colonies, although entirely agricultural, are unable to provide their own requirements of food and have to import a considerable proportion from Europe. Now, with European shipments cut off or uncertain, they are being thrown back on their own resources and compelled to develop more self-sufficient systems of agriculture.

Here are great possibilities for revolutionising colonial agriculture under the spur of a passing necessity in such a way that the fertility of derelict land is restored and assured for the future. There are also dangers in the present situation. Unlike the Dominions and United States, which are cutting down the production of human food, the Colonies must increase theirs, and human-food crops can, if arbitrarily cultivated, be among the most exhausting in their effects on the soil. One colony at least anticipates an aggravation of erosion as a result of the food-production campaign. Nevertheless, a properly balanced, self-sufficient agriculture offers the best promise of maintaining the fertility of tropical soils. In such an agriculture pastures and livestock, although relatively inefficient as producers of human food, have a vital part to play, and the danger is that their importance as potential soil conservers will be underrated in formulating agricultural programmes to meet the exigencies of war. It will be a tragedy if, in planning to meet the war-time problem of food production,

the all-time problem of soil conservation is lost sight of. It will be a triumph of common sense if each is made to solve the other. In that case the agricultural revolution initiated by the war towards greater self-sufficiency in the Colonies will continue afterwards, for it will have shown the way to achieving that social stability which can be grounded only in a fertile and stable soil.

EFFECT ON FOOD SUPPLIES

Every country which in the past has sold us its soil fertility, but, owing to the war, can do so no longer, has the opportunity to introduce some form of soil-saving agriculture in place of the soil-exhausting systems which have prevailed hitherto and have had such disastrous consequences to the land. Canada, whose action has been influenced by the success of the conservation revolution of her neighbour, is already taking energetic steps to substitute soil-saving crops for wheat. Elsewhere it is not clear whether the possibilities of the war-time situation have yet been appreciated, but there can be little doubt that if present conditions are prolonged the general trend towards permanent systems of more self-contained agriculture in overseas countries will be accelerated, for both from the short-term economic and the long-term agricultural points of view there is no practicable alternative.

When once the lasting benefits of soil-saving agriculture, even on a limited scale, have been realised they will not be renounced. Hitherto the main obstacle to the adoption of national soil-conservation policies has been that both established custom and economic opportunity have favoured soil exploitation. The latter is now operating in the reverse direction. In the case of the British Dominions the liquidation, as a result of the war, of their financial obligations to Britain will relieve them of the necessity of maintaining agricultural exports on the pre-war scale, and will enable them to develop more fully the soil-saving, self-contained forms of agriculture that are now as vital to their national existence as soil-exhausting, export agriculture was in former times.

This is not to say that we can anticipate a sudden major decline in the amount of agricultural produce available for export to Europe, but that the trend, which for political reasons has operated so strongly in Europe, towards self-contained, nationalistic systems of agriculture, is also becoming apparent in the newer countries, for reasons connected with the condition of the soil. Politics in Europe are urging on us the necessity for producing at home a greater proportion of our essential foodstuffs, and the necessity is underlined by the state of the soils from which we have hitherto derived our overseas supplies. The state of the soil may change—like politics—for better or worse, but in either eventuality the effect on our overseas food resources will be the same. Conservation agriculture must reduce the surpluses available for export just as surely as, and probably more rapidly than, would a further progressive exhaustion of the soil.

RECENT DISCOVERIES AT PALMYRA

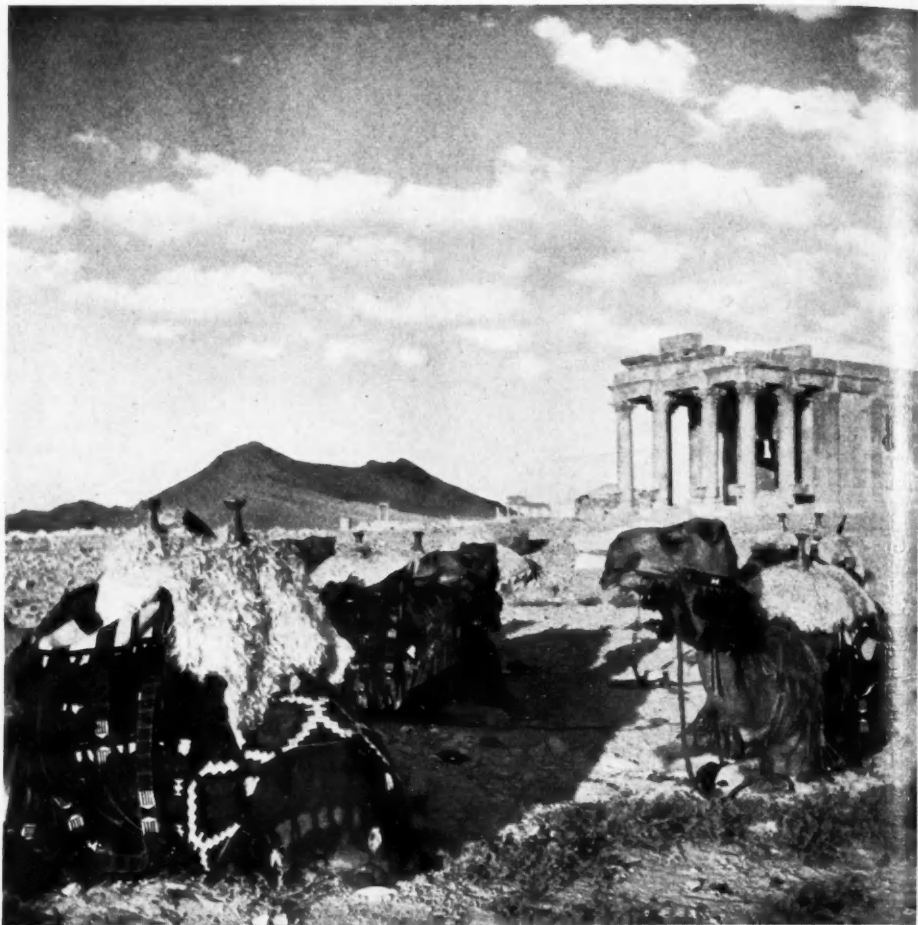
By JOHN HORNE

SYRIA is rich in traces of ancient civilisation. Hittite, Phœnician, Greek, Roman, Crusader, Saracen—the choice is infinite. While in some sites little is visible, others can still show the picture of their former glory, and, among these, two are world-famous.

Baalbek overwhelms with its colossal temples, but they alone survive. At Palmyra a whole city spreads itself over the plain, its streets lined by columns, its greatest monument cleared of debris where almost every stone is a marvel of workmanship. And in the splendour of Palmyran tombs the likeness of an ancient people is revealed.

Situated in the Syrian Desert 150 miles north-east of Damascus, Palmyra dates its beginning from at least 1000 B.C. Its spring where Bedouin watered their camels attracted Phœnician commerce spreading inland from the Mediterranean. Jews and Syrians followed in their turn. The place prospered till, in the first century A.D., it became the luxurious capital of a kingdom rivalling Roman power in Asia Minor. Roman history has told of its dramatic downfall. Here it suffices to mention that what we see to-day was built or restored by the Emperor Hadrian, that in A.D. 272 Aurelian's soldiers sacked the town and that 800 years later an earthquake completed the work of destruction.

A Triumphal Way crosses the city from west to east, beginning at a funerary temple just within the walls and ending at the Temple of the Sun, about a mile distant. This main street was once lined by 750 columns, decorated with brackets to hold statues, behind which were covered side-walks and probably shops. Many of the columns still stand, but the greater part have fallen, whole rows lying intact by a freak of the earthquake. Other columned streets lead north and south from a central point, and near by a theatre can still show its stage and promenade behind several tiers of seats. There are two vast arcaded market



"THE UNCHANGING SHIPS OF THE DESERT REST BY THE PILLARED WAY"



THE ARCHWAY OF THE GREAT COLONNADE, WITH THE TEMPLE OF THE MASTER OF THE SKIES IN THE BACKGROUND

places, and in every direction ruins of walls, gateways and unknown buildings rise from the sand. Two minor temples have been recognised—the funerary temple, of which only a heap of sculptured blocks remains behind a miraculously spared Corinthian peristyle, and the exceptionally severe-looking temple of Baal Samin (Master of the Skies). As sanctuary of so important a deity its small size is surprising, and its simplicity is almost a relief among so much ornate decoration.

The Triumphal Way must have led to the great Temple of the Sun, but to-day all traces vanish some distance short of it where the road bends slightly southwards. At the angle stands a monumental arch, the best-known piece of architecture in the city. Constructed obviously to mask the turning, it is a wonderfully graceful specimen of the rare wedge-shaped archway, one entrance facing due west, the other somewhat south of east.

Thanks to the removal of the Arab village which completely occupied it, the Temple of the Sun now dominates Palmyra from its artificial mound, and its colossal proportions can be appreciated. The courtyard—about the size of St. James's Square—is enclosed by walls 40ft. high and faced with a colonnade, of which parts have remained undamaged. In the centre towers the temple. It must have been an imposing building, and it has some curious features. The entrance is not at one end—as was the general rule—but on the west side, and not even in the middle of the wall. The interior is bare, except for a chamber at each end, raised 6ft. above floor level and roofed with a single carved stone slab. At present the reason of these chambers and the unusual position of the doorway has not been explained.

In the cleared courtyard the French have arranged the fallen debris so as to show its exotic decoration to the greatest advantage. One must remember that the Palmyran population was drawn from varied sources, Arab, Jewish, Greek, and to some extent Persian; and, though Rome employed her own architects and artists to direct the local craftsmen, they

were often Greeks from Asia Minor or (like Apollodorus who worked for Trajan) Syrians.

This explains the oriental tendency adopted by Rome at Palmyra. Depth of carving shows the Parthian love of violent contrast that gives colour in bright sunlight. Sacred cypresses, to be found on all Persian monuments, are frequent. Trousered deities on ceiling panels look even more Eastern; and everywhere the grape-vine frieze abounds in exceptional size and relief, as if the symbol of Bacchus had enjoyed special favour in the thirsty desert.

But the most amazing feature of Palmyra is its tombs, which are of two kinds, hewn out of the rock, or built in the form of towers. In the former the entrance is by a double stone door, carved with panels exactly like a modern wooden door, the enormous weight swinging on bronze pivots embedded in the floor. Within is etched a lofty gallery lined with pillars, between which the embalmed bodies were ranged in several tiers of deep narrow drawers, each with a portrait of its occupant carved on the front. On the right a sort of chapel contains life-size group of the owner of the tomb, his wife, children and servants.

Though many such groups have been discovered, the positions never vary, the husband reclining on a couch with his family seated behind, and the slaves standing behind. Each figure holds a wine cup, representing the feast of departure for another world; each face is a portrait, even those on the drawer receptacles; and, as some tombs were built for no fewer



RUINS OF THE GREAT COLONNADE REFLECT PALMYRA'S FORMER GLORY
An eleventh-century earthquake caused the destruction



A CORNER OF THE GREAT COURTYARD OF THE TEMPLE OF THE SUN

than 400 bodies, the effect can be imagined. One sees the Palmyrans with their jewels and clothing—even their hats and the dressing of their hair—as they lived when without was no arid waste, but a great city. No doubt with reason, unofficial photography of these interiors is not permitted.

The same arrangement holds good in the towers, which have five storeys, each with its chapel and family groups; but, besides being a pious record the tombs were a good investment. Inscriptions tell us that the owners frequently sold the right of burial in them. "I hereby cede four tiers at the west end of the second-floor corridor to Mr. A. and his heirs male for ever" is typical of the wording. No wonder business flourished in Palmyra!

And what of the future? War planes circle over the desert from Palmyra's aerodrome, the famous oil pipeline passes close by, and—strangest contrast—while the unchanging ships of the desert rest by the pillared way, the most modern implements of destruction pass beside them. One can only hope that what has already been so mutilated may now be spared.



"EVERYWHERE THE GRAPE-VINE
FRIEZE ABOUNDS IN EXCEPTIONAL
SIZE AND RELIEF"



1.—THE SOUTH FRONT, RISING FROM DOWNLAND TURF

UPPARK, SUSSEX—II

THE HOME OF ADMIRAL THE HON. SIR HERBERT MEADE FETHERSTONHAUGH, G.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O.

Sir Matthew Fetherstonhaugh, Bt., left a fortune in 1746 by a distant relative bought the house built about 1690, and re-decorated it, partly in 1750 and partly about 1770, perhaps from designs by Henry Keene



Copyright

2.—THE STONE HALL
FORMERLY THE ENTRY HALL IN THE CENTRE OF THE EAST SIDE
Duck-egg green walls

"Country Life"

THE atmosphere of Uppark is as delicate and fragrant as the bloom on a grape. For nearly 200 years this untouched perfection might have lain under a spell, so little has been changed since Sir Matthew Fetherstonhaugh and Sarah Lethieullier finished unpacking all the treasures they had bought for Uppark in Paris, Naples, Venice and Rome. A fairy godmother seems to watch over this sleeping beauty of a home. By a spell of curious chances she brought Matthew and Sarah here in 1747; by yet stranger inspiration their daughter-in-law's sister Miss Frances (Bullock) Fetherstonhaugh, who died in 1895, left everything to an individual of whose identity she could not be certain: "the second surviving son of Admiral the Earl of Clanwilliam on condition that he takes the name of Fetherstonhaugh." After the old lady's death a life interest established Major Keith Turnour-Fetherstonhaugh, an uncle of Lord Winterton, at Uppark. Then, in 1930, the "second son" clause became operative. The late Admiral of the Fleet Lord Clanwilliam had leased neighbouring Stansted for the shooting, and sometimes brought over distinguished friends to shoot the Uppark woods for the old lady. As there were four sons, and she, a farmer's daughter, had no one whatever to whom to leave the place, the upkeep of which had been the sisters' life work of seventy years, she made her strange bequest. The second son, Admiral Sir Herbert Meade, who now took the additional name, and is no less distinguished a sailor than his father, had married Miss Margaret Glyn. In 1931 they entered their fairy inheritance.

After 190 years of day-long sunshine through the tall seaward windows, the silk curtains were hanging in threads; the big pictures were black; the old wallpapers, tapestries, and chair-covers, well saved yet falling apart. Admiral and Lady Meade Fetherstonhaugh have devoted the past decade to preserving with the most tender care all that was entrusted to them: the roof and cornice have been taken down and replaced bit by bit; tattered, sun-rotted curtains have been darned from head to foot by the ladies of the house almost where they hung, their faded crimson or ivory brought to life again by lotions of *saponaria*; the colours of carpets and *petit-point* nursed back to life. This ten years' labour of love is the latest chapter, and not the least wonderful, in the fairy tale.

Its beginning, to which some later episodes have been prefaced to indicate the even texture of the fairies' web, lies in Northumberland, for the second time strangely linked with Uppark. From there Lord Grey of Wark had been called by inheritance, and, becoming Earl of Tankerville, built the house in King William's reign. Now, the third

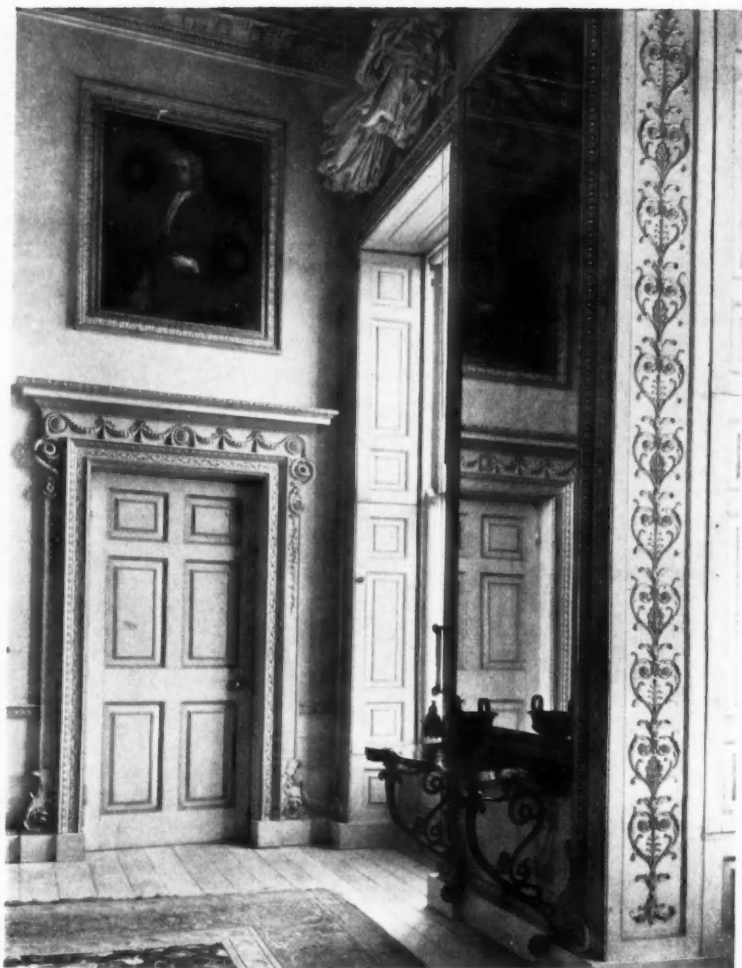


3.—THE WHITE AND GOLD SALOON IN THE CENTRE OF THE SOUTH FRONT
Formed and furnished by Sir Matthew Fetherstonhaugh in about 1770, the decoration is untouched, including the indigo ground Wilton carpet



4.—ONE OF THE SALOON CHIMNEYPIECES. PORTRAIT OF GEORGE III BY DANCE
the decoration is untouched, including the indigo ground Wilton carpet

Copyright



5.—DOORWAY FROM SALOON TO LITTLE PARLOUR



Copyright "Country Life"
 6.—THE LITTLE PARLOUR. DUCK-EGG GREEN WALLS
 ORIGINAL GREEN BROCADE CURTAINS
 Over the chimneypiece, Harry Fetherstonhaugh, aged four, in a blue frock,
 by Reynolds

Lord Tankerville wished to withdraw to Chillingham, and to sell Uppark. At the same time, the 1740's, a certain wealthy citizen of London with properties in Essex, named Sir Henry Fetherston, set about finding an heir since he and his nine brothers and sisters were childless. He picked on a young man, a distant kinsman, son of a Mayor of Newcastle. To him he bequeathed £400,000 on condition that he acquired a country estate and a baronetcy. Matthew Fetherstonhaugh—Sir Matthew, Rt., of Uppark, as he became in 1747—evidently found in his wife the ideal helpmate in setting up house at Uppark. Sarah, the only daughter of Christopher Lethieullier of Belmont, Middlesex, came from Huguenot stock: she was a trim brunette, *jolie laide*, careful and affectionate as her account books show, and evidently came of a cultivated, happy family, whom we get to know in Devis's eight little portraits which now hang step by step up the stairs. A good deal of the furniture at Uppark probably comes from the Lethieulliers; certainly the great doll's house does, made for Sarah when she was a child. Having been brought up with a doll's house in which every piece of furniture is exquisitely of the Queen Anne period, the vessels of hall-marked silver, Waterford glass or pewter, every doll perfectly dressed, with the correct number of petticoats, Sarah might be expected to grow up with admirable taste.

We can picture Sir Matthew bringing his young wife to see the great house he had just bought, as soon as they were married. He recorded that the journey to Uppark in February, 1747, cost £9 5s., and he gave a guinea to the ringers of Harting for their welcome. The coach must have driven up to the east entrance, between the stable wings, and they will have entered the house by the Stone Hall—hung to-day with pictures of Venice that they soon afterwards brought back (Fig. 2). The house was then all panelled in pine, with big bolection wainscot that still remains in the first-floor corridor and some of the bedrooms. Most of the rooms were square, as they are to-day, with the exception of the Long Drawing-room and the Dining-room. It is not possible to say what the saloon was like, for this room has been redecorated entirely and heightened as well, raising the bedroom floors above to the level of their window sills. The big turned-baluster oak staircase they found painted white and gold, but had it grained oak: this can be proved because, in beginning to scrape the graining off, Harry Fetherstonhaugh's name was found scratched on the handrail, on the graining. The walls and ceiling of the staircase were also evidently remodelled in rococo and Palladian plaster painted pale pink and white. The bride and bridegroom picked their decorators, approved their plans, chose flock-patterned wallpapers possibly from a new factory that is said to have been established near by at Liss, for at any rate some of the rooms, and set off with Ulric Fetherstonhaugh and his wife for the Grand Tour.

In Sir Matthew's beautifully kept account book, which gives every detail of his personal expenditure but unfortunately only incidental references to Uppark, he enters under November 12, 1749: "... About this time went abroad till Sept. 29th 1751;" and by 1759 he estimated that he had spent £16,615 at Uppark on buildings, furniture, pictures, furnishings, locks, horses, etc. At the same time (1755-58) he was building a fine London house in Whitehall, since known as Dover House and now the Scottish Office, from designs by James Paine, some correspondence with whom is preserved. Another architect whom he was employing in 1774 was Henry Keene, architect of Bowood and Hartwell and the Market Hall at High Wycombe, to design a Gothic tower at the top of the park.

Were these or any other architects consulted about the redecoration of Uppark? There is not a scrap of evidence, but as soon as one steps into the white and gold saloon (Fig. 3) the question begins to intrigue. The saloon occupies five windows of the south front, the middle one having a flight of steps to the downland turf. Behind it is the big square staircase hall. On each side are rooms making up the east and west sides: the Long Drawing-room on the west, with two square rooms beyond it; on the east the Little Parlour, then the Stone Hall, both square rooms, with the long Dining-room at the north end. In most of these it is the taste of Matthew and Sarah and of their age that is imprinted; not of an individual designer. In the west rooms there are rich, if rather clumsily modelled rococo ceilings; classical cornices cap all the walls which, on the west side, are hung with the original mid-eighteenth-century flock paper, once crimson, now faded to soft murry. Each room has a handsome fireplace in the classical vogue of William Kent, or the rococo or even Chinese taste. The doors, finely carved, are of uniform six-panel design set in enriched cases; but the inner doors giving into the staircase hall from various rooms are the old Talman eight-panel doors preserved *in situ*. So on the east side, the panelled dining-room is the only room to retain something of its original Talman decoration; while Stone Hall and Little Parlour, each with a fine chimneypiece, show no sign of the dominant influence of a single designer, except that the Little



7, 8, 9.—MEMBERS OF THE LETHIEULLIER FAMILY, BY DEVIS
On the left, "Mrs. Thornton of Clapham in Surrey." Part of a set of eight on the staircase

Parlour has a ceiling related to that of the adjoining Saloon. The implication is that Sir Matthew and his lady themselves chose the fittings and directed the decoration.

But, listed in this way, one notices that the rooms arrange themselves into two groups: those on the west side have rococo ceilings and flock wallpapers typical of the 1740's, and those on the east a more pronouncedly mid-century classical simplicity, of which the outstanding instance is the Saloon. This, as has been remarked, does suggest an expert hand, but of the end rather than of the beginning of Sir Matthew's married life.

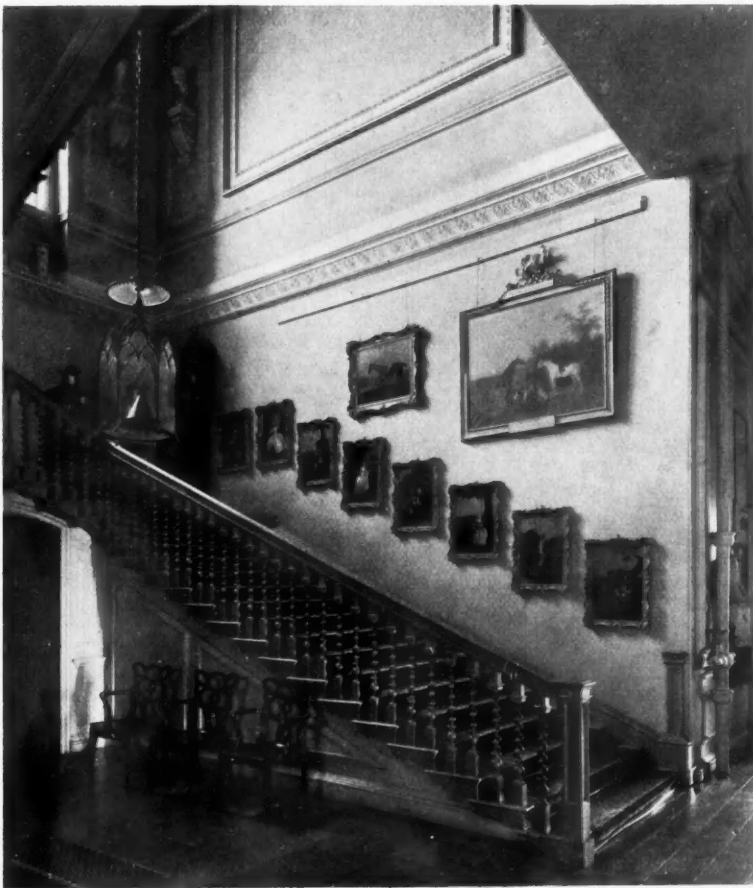
The high coved ceiling is decorated in the light-handed manner that made Robert Adam's fortune, though the touch is more robust, and the enormous circular centre suggesting a dome is of a kind that Vanbrugh had used in George I's reign. The two great chimneypieces with busts of Homer and Virgil and grandly sculptured plaques of Androcles with the lion and Romulus with the wolf, red granite impostes and Siena marble entablatures, are no longer regarded as parts of a decorative scheme as Kent treated such things, but rather as works of art in their own right. The doorways no longer have the triangular pediments of Palladian rule but flat entablatures and fat festoons, the angles supported by writhing snakes or by fully detailed Corinthian columns. The decorative scheme of the walls is dictated by the pictures: two large canvases of a Prodigal Son series which Sir Matthew brought back from Italy, George III and Queen Charlotte over the fireplaces, portrayed by Nathaniel Dance when those Sovereigns were at least middle-aged, and, over the door to the stairs, Harry Fetherstonhaugh, also by Dance when under the influence of Pompeo Battoni, when that young man, born in 1754,

seems to be about 15 years old. Except for the bookcases with yellow scagliola tops, introduced in Regency times below the Prodigal Son canvases, all this points to a date not earlier than 1770 for the decoration of this room. Of the architects with whom Sir Matthew is known to have been in contact, Paine could have produced this transitional design between Palladian and Adam style—the ceiling arabesques are not unlike those on the drawing-room of Dover House; but a more likely suggestion is Henry Keene. His work at Bowood (where Adam succeeded him), Hartwell, Balliol College, and in High Wycombe reveals just this rather uncertain blend of conservatism

with new ideas. Such references to him as there are in Sir Matthew's accounts refer specifically to the Gothic Tower, but an item "To packing cases etc. for Uppark ordered by Mr. Keene and left unpaid by Sir Matthew £5" may have a bearing on other work. It is probable that the removal and re-building of the stable wings may belong to this period, about 1770. The existing pavilions are quite in keeping with Keene's known work.

Whatever the secret of the Saloon's designer, it has a haunting beauty, with its five great windows filled with sky and far views over the rolling downs. Its white walls, indeed all the paintwork, is original and has that opaque bluish tint found sometimes in old French houses and coming from a high proportion of white lead which gives it its permanency. The gilding is equally fresh, and being applied with great delicacy to the very finely cut mouldings of panels and doors, and no less delicate plasterwork, gives an impression of extreme refinement. The gilt *motif* is centred on a magnificent ormolu chandelier, and carried through the furnishing by the more tarnished gilding of a superb set of chairs upholstered in *petit-point* with La Fontaine's fables. The floor, of unstained oak boards, bleached white by years of upland sun, is covered with a huge early Wilton carpet, the ground of which is indigo blue as fresh as when new. The draperies are the original ivory silk brocade. Ten years ago they were in shreds.

This applies to the curtains throughout the house—a pair are seen lowered in the adjoining Little Parlour (Fig. 6). All are of the draw-up type characteristic of the period, a similar instance of which is to be seen in the contemporary picture gallery at Corsham. The Little Parlour



Copyright

10.—THE STAIRCASE HALL "Country Life"
Oak woodwork, old pink walls with white reliefs

—always the room of the lady of the house—has four windows looking south and east, and walls of duck-egg green. The ceiling is evidently by the same hand as the Saloon, though the chimney-piece enriched with rococo vines may be of Sir Matthew and his lady's youth. Above it hangs Reynolds's portrait of Harry Fetherstonhaugh aged about four, in the blue costume that seems to have been a property of Sir Joshua's studio since little Paul Cobb Methuen at Corsham is wearing it too. The other pictures are mostly part of two large sets bought in Italy, views of Venice in the Canaletto style and romantic Vernet seascapes signed and dated 1751.

Sir Matthew Fetherstonhaugh was M.P. successively for Morpeth and Portsmouth, a Governor of St. Thomas's and the Middlesex Hospitals, and F.R.S. He practised shorthand with his wife, beautifully clear examples of which are preserved in a memorandum book. His minute personal accounts present a detailed picture of his daily life in London and at Uppark, beginning in 1746 when he inherited Sir Henry's fortune. A random sample is:

For Pistols £11 11s.; Dancing Master £2 2s.; Journey to Uppark exclusive of Turnpikes £3 2s. 5d.; For Sattin for a Waistcoat £3 1s.; For a Bag & Wig £1 16s. 6d.; Gave a poor Man £1 1s.; For a Nosegay 1s.; A Cane 5s.; Ruffles & Muslin £12 15s.; Chocolate £2 14s.; Play 5s.; Chair 5s.; At ye Coffee House & Rooms 12s.; Booksellers 5s.; Musick 5s.; At Goodwood 7s.

The earlier pages abound with suggestive

but, unspecified purchases such as, under 1754:

Dresden China 11s.; Duty on pictures & China £13 15s.; For Chelsea China £39 10s.; Mr. Hallet for Cabinet £43 5s. 6d.

Hallet, one of the leading cabinet-makers of the period, made a fortune part of which he spent in the purchase of Canons, the Duke of Chandos's great house at Edgware, and on having his son and daughter-in-law painted by Gainsborough—a picture known as *The Evening Walk*.

In a cabinet are preserved an exquisite series of wax portraits. Four roundels in natural colours, "taken at Naples in 1751," are of Sir Matthew (in a red coat), Lady Fetherstonhaugh, Ulric his brother and his wife; also a remarkable polychrome set of personalities in the Masaniello revolt of 1647, clearly Neapolitan work of the same date. Besides these is a set of six Gosset portraits in ivory wax of George III, his Queen, the Pelhams, and General Wolfe, the latter dating the set to about 1757-60.

Sir Matthew, besides his estates in Northumberland, Essex and the City, considerably added to the Uppark estate, acquiring the Harting property of the Carylls of which Uppark had once been an outlying portion and the Carylls the owners. Their manor house, now no more, stood at the west end of South Harting Church and is shown in one of the big Wootton landscapes at Uppark to have been a three-gabled Jacobean building. He also became con-

cerned in 1770 in a scheme for founding a new colony in America on the banks of the Ohio. A company was floated to acquire the necessary land, and the colony was to be called Vandalia. The procrastinations of the Government and the outbreak of the War of Independence eventually put an end to the project, but it is commemorated at Uppark by the Gothic tower already referred to which is known as the Vandalian Tower. It is now a ruinous landmark, built on a triangular plan, with a bastion at each corner, and might be regarded as one of those artificial ruins affected at the time but for Henry Keene's drawing of the complete structure. It shows each bastion surmounted by a tapering pinnacle, the windows filled with slender Gothic tracery and stained glass, and a Gothic porch at the head of a flight of steps. It commands the entire circumference of views, northwards over Alice Holt and Selborne, Bere Forest westwards, as well as the wonderful panorama of downs and sea to the south. The record of its authorship also perhaps gives us an insight into the contemporary decoration of the rooms described here.

The failure of the Vandalia scheme may have hastened Sir Matthew's death in 1774, leaving an only son aged twenty whose gay career, which will be touched on next week, must have afflicted his widowed mother but led, indirectly, to Uppark becoming the bower of Sleeping Beauty for a hundred and twenty years. CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY.

MASTERPIECES OF PERSIAN AND INDIAN ART

A PORTRAIT OF TAMERLANE BY BIHZAD

THE appearance in the saleroom of a superb and authentic drawing of Tamerlane (Timur Beg) by the greatest and rarest of Persian masters, Bihzad of Herat, is an event even in these times. It is included in the collection of the late Major D. I. M. Macaulay, described as "one of the most important of its kind that has come into the market for many years," which is being offered by Messrs. Sotheby next Tuesday, June 24.

"The appearance of this incomparable artist marks an epoch in the history of Persian painting," Sir Thomas Arnold has written of Bihzad. His achievement was

to replace the diagrammatic conventions of the Perso-Mongol school by draughtsmanship of extreme delicacy and grace, and of considerable realism with a wide range of colour nuances. For a century after his death (about 1520) the name of Bihzad stood for the highest qualities of excellence; and his art was never surpassed in the tradition founded on his work. Authentic examples of it are extremely rare, but this remarkable pen and ink drawing on cotton cloth of the great conqueror (1369-1404 A.D.) was endorsed on the back by the Court painter of Akbar the Great, in about 1610, with the inscription:

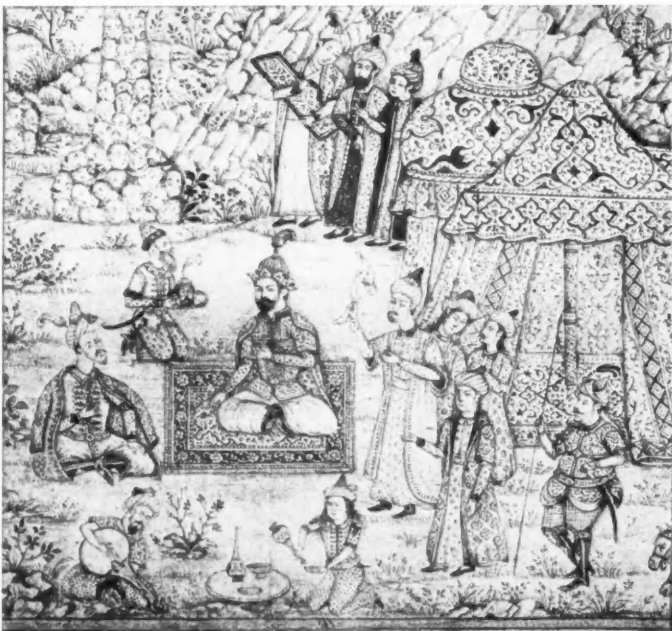
He is God! . . . A Scene in the illustrious reign of His Majesty Timur Gurgani. . . . This original drawing was executed by Ustad Bihzad for Khalil Mirza Shah Rukh . . . This slave of the court Far-rukhh Beg has made a copy from it.

The drawing, of which only a section is reproduced, shows Timur seated among a group of his marshals and generals, receiving the heads of his enemies; the whole contained in a wide border of arabesques. There are also three brilliant pages from a sketch book of Bihzad, which were exhibited at the Persian Exhibition in 1931.

The collection contains a number of Moghul miniatures, contemporary portraits of the first excellence, comprising the Emperors Aurangzeb, Shah Jahan (builder of the Taj Mahal), Babar, Ahmad Shah, and Tahmasp; and a number of highly important illuminated manuscripts.

A drawing of outstanding beauty and a masterpiece of the Moghul school is a painting signed by Mansur, the famous Court painter of the Emperor Jahangir. The subject is a dove, *Kabutar*, with gold rings on its legs, painted in buff and white on a green ground, the dovescot in the background in gold.

Few of these exquisite works, many of which were in the Imperial collection at Delhi, have been previously exhibited or published.



TAMERLANE RECEIVING THE HEADS OF HIS ENEMIES. A PORTION OF A UNIQUE PEN AND INK DRAWING ON COTTON BY BIHZAD

The whole original is surrounded by a deep border of arabesques



A DOVE, BY MANSUR (11ins. by 7½ins.)

PICTURES BY BRITISH ARTISTS

SUMMER exhibitions are not as numerous as in peace-time and are planned on a modest scale, but it is good to know that some old-established galleries are able to carry on their business, and the public naturally appreciates their efforts. Messrs. Agnew are showing pictures by fourteen British painters, old and modern. Landscapes predominate, and the lovely works by Wilson Steer, the greatest living master of English landscape, are the chief attraction. Some of these are early works of his, painted in the first years of the century when the New English Art Club was enjoying its greatest triumph and the influence of the French impressionists was still something new and astonishing. The silvery luminous view of Stroud, the sparkling rainbow landscape of Knaresborough and the joyous group of girls in white dresses, moving in and out of the shade of trees, could not have been painted without that influence. At the same time Steer was not really breaking away from the English tradition, which flows in a quiet stream from the older masters Wilson and Constable to the younger painters Grant, Herbert White and John Nash.

In the earlier work links with French and other Continental painters are also apparent, and as usual the English development comes somewhat later. Thus Wilson owed much to Claude, and Crome to the Dutch masters of a century earlier. Wilson's landscape with three figures called *Cicero's Villa* is a serenely beautiful composition; another small painting shows a waterfall near Ferrara with the Euganean Hills in the distance. But it was not always a case of English painters being inspired by Italian scenery. The opposite occurred when Canaletto, the Venetian painter, came here to record English places, and there is a very curious instance of his effect on English painters in the picture of Walton Bridge by Francis Towne, which is a very similar composition, though not an exact copy of Canaletto's well-known picture of the bridge painted in 1755 for Samuel Dicker, who had paid for the construction of the bridge. This was reproduced in COUNTRY LIFE of March 11, 1939, when it was lent by Mrs. Skrine to the Exhibition of Venetian Painting. The picture now shown at Messrs. Agnew's is one of the very few oil paintings done by Towne, who was mainly a water-colourist. It shows his beautiful sweeping design in the relation of the clouds and trees to the curve of the bridge, but it is hardly likely that he painted it without having seen one of Canaletto's pictures or drawings of it, the obvious difference being the almost complete absence of figures from Towne's version



WILSON STEER. VIEW OF STROUD VALLEY. 16½ ins. by 21½ ins.

in contrast to the gay population of Canaletto's foreground.

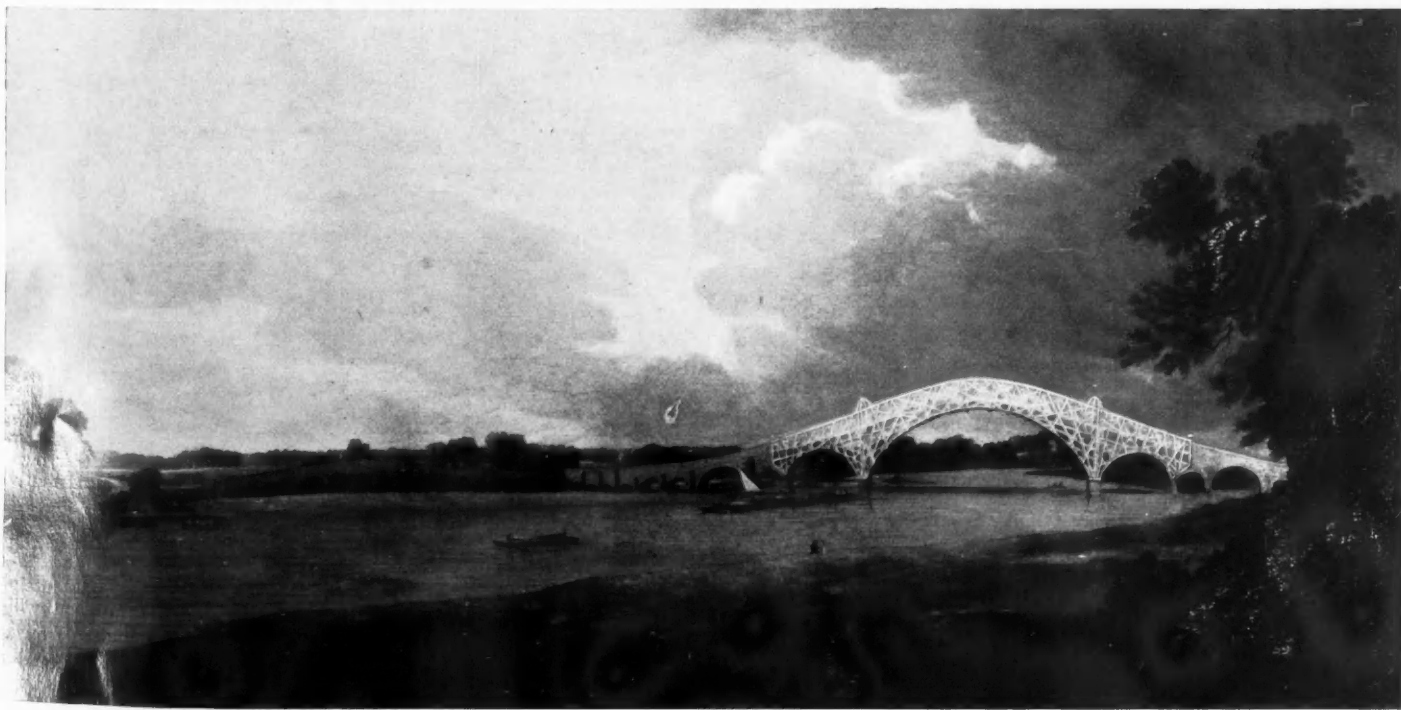
The sketches by Constable are mostly early works, rather precise and yet wonderfully alive. David Cox, Alexander Nasmyth, Ibbetson and Vickers are among the early landscape painters who figure in the exhibition, and the only important portrait painter is Romney, whose likeness of General Charles Stuart and the profile of James Dunlop of Garnkirk are both excellent.

There is a profound contrast between the two great old masters of modern English art, Steer and Sickert. Sickert expresses character, strength and shape, while Steer creates light and atmosphere. The two street scenes of Dieppe by Sickert are excellent and the figure subjects, as usual, tell a tale which, by the way, is the title of one of them. Another sort of tale, a romantic love-story, is told by Tonks in his delightful fantasy the *Lovers of Orlay*.

Finally, to turn to the younger painters, there is a good harvest scene by John Nash,

a snow scene by Duncan Grant, some studies by Anthony Devas, and a delicate still-life by Victor Pasmore.

At the Leicester Galleries the memorial exhibition of Mark Gertler's paintings, held in May, is followed by a collection of paintings by Vanessa Bell and sculpture by Frank Dobson. The death of Gertler in 1939 was a serious loss to English painting. His achievement was well illustrated in the paintings selected to commemorate him—early studies of Jewish life in Whitechapel, some landscapes and still-life pictures, opulent flower-pieces, portraits, the *Merry-go-round* (showing his taste for rather gaudy folk-art), some nudes, and finally the remarkably balanced achievement of his last compositions. One can recognise echoes of Gauguin, Modigliano and above all Picasso and Braque, but his own personality was never submerged, and asserted itself in the recent almost abstract compositions no less than in the early types. M. C.



FRANCIS TOWNE. WALTON BRIDGE. Oil, 15½ ins. by 31 ins.

SUNDAY AND ST. ANDREWS

A Golf Commentary by BERNARD DARWIN

IN peace-time the tiniest pebble thrown into a pond may make far-reaching ripples; in war-time you may throw in a comparative rock and scarcely anyone will notice it. Two or three days before I write this something happened in the golfing world which would ordinarily have made a stir, and the little two-line paragraphs announcing it only caught my eye by chance. Sunday golf at St. Andrews! As Mr. Weller once remarked: "If this don't beat cock-fightin', nothin' never vill." To be sure Sunday golf has been played on some Scottish courses for a good many years now. I remember playing it at Barnton forty years ago, but Barnton is a private course, and even so my recollection is that our clubs were muffled in horse-rugs as we drove in a fly out of Edinburgh. St. Andrews is a different matter altogether, and I have no doubt very considerable feeling has been aroused. On the general question, I, who am the least sabbatical of mortals, do not propose to say anything, but one or two possible results of this decision may be noted. One is, I take it, that the headquarters of golf will become what it has never been before, a great place for golfing week-ends. To come there for a week-end from Edinburgh or Glasgow can hardly have been very tempting when there was only a slow and crowded round on a Saturday afternoon to look forward to; but now with one whole long blissful Sunday in prospect Scottish golfers will surely pour in. I can even imagine some enthusiastic Londoner dashing up in a sleeper on Friday night and so home again for his Monday's breakfast, refreshed by the breezes of Fife. That is, of course, a peace-time dream, but to-day many hard-working golfers from nearer by, especially those in the Services, may gain a pleasant little spot of golfing leave.

One thing which occurs to me, who am to be sure no green-keeper, is that this is going to be hard work for the courses and more particularly for the Old Course. There has often been quoted the remark of old Tom Morris to those demanding Sunday golf: "If you don't want a rest on Sunday the links does." In fact, the links will, I fancy, miss their recuperative day's surcease unless, as is possible, they are given a mid-week rest instead. That hard ground has put up with trampling and niblick shots such as would have killed softer turf, but endurance has its limits, and no doubt care will be taken that it is not tested too severely. If the left-hand course is more often played by way of a rest and change for the turf there would be rather a gain than otherwise; or at least I think so, because it is many years since I have played it and memory of the course so played—out by the left and home by the right—has grown very dim.

The whole question indeed is one that we shall all be rather apt to regard from a personal and selfish point of view. So regarding it I am a little sorry. When I and other southerners go to St. Andrews we go for a golfing holiday and we play golf hard or as hard as the crowds of others so employed will allow us. So when the seventh day comes we are rather glad—or used to be—that we have to rest compulsorily from our labours. It is at least some little protection against staleness. Moreover, I confess to a conservative and sentimental liking for a St. Andrews Sunday, and have even travelled there deliberately on a Saturday night on purpose to enjoy it before the hard work begins. There is a beautifully idle and immutable quality about it. After a lazily late breakfast the golfer strolls down to the clubhouse and presently somebody suggests that the big room is rather chilly and that the crackle of a fire would be pleasant. A little later somebody else suggests that a glass of beer would be exceedingly pleasant, and that suggestion, too, is carried out. Then the company is swelled by those—in their best blue suits and bowler hats—who have been to church, and finally before lunch comes the inevitable rite of walking as far as the burn and back.

Sometimes in moments of excessive energy I have got to the second green and, on very fine days when the whins are in their fullest golden splendour, even a little farther, but this is rare.



THE FAMOUS ROAD HOLE (the 17th) ON THE OLD COURSE, ST. ANDREWS

After lunch much the same thing happens and again after tea, a very pleasant round with perhaps a touch of sameness. Admittedly it is a long day, but "at last the bell ringeth to evensong" and the tired holiday-maker feels the benefit as he starts out full of fresh vigour on Monday morning. He then appreciates old Mr. Sutherland's remark to a friend who had work to do and so could not play: "God bless my soul! Are you going to waste a Monday?"

There used once to be an agreeable variant of the day in the form of an afternoon drive to Kinshaldie and a round on a small private course which some friends had there. It was very unexhausting golf, played with three clubs or so, and nothing more strenuous than a pitch was needed for the second shot. Moreover, the change from the turmoil and crowd and waiting of the links to that pretty quiet little spot curtained by woods from the vulgar eye, was a refreshment in itself. However, that is now past wishing for since Kinshaldie is no more and is, I believe, rapidly growing into solid woodland. I have paid my tribute before but

cannot regret shedding one last sentimental tear on its account.

Nowadays, in any case, I am not at all likely to be tempted into playing seven days a week: so the feelings that I have described are not only selfish but sadly out of date. A great many people whose feelings matter—which mine do not—will no doubt rejoice with entirely whole hearts. No doubt also we shall soon grow used to the change and that old Sunday stroll across the empty expanse between the clubhouse and the burn will become a dim memory. I am afraid the shade of old Tom may be distressed; so let us think of others who may be glad where they play on the asphodel. There is one for instance who got into sad trouble in the matter a little over 320 years ago: "January 30, 1621. The guihle day David Hairt, prenteis to Gilbert Banhop, wrycht, confest prophanatione of the Sabbath in playing at the golf on the Sabbath afternoon in tyme of preaching; and therefore is ordenit to pay *ad pios usus* etc." David will, we may trust, like to hear of his fellow 'prentices, enjoying themselves after a hard week's work.

A COUNTRYWOMAN'S DIARY

By E. M. DELAFIELD

THERE has been a sequel to War Weapons Week in our village. The parish numbers 700 people, and does not include a single large estate or wealthy householder, so that we felt our total achievement of something over £5,000 to be a creditable one.

Someone, writing a personal letter to an American friend in New York, happened to tell him about it—and almost by return the answer came. The American—a business man—wrote that he was greatly moved to think of a small village doing so much "with taxation what it is" and enclosed a draft for \$50 (£12 7s. 6d. at present rates of exchange) to be added to the total, because he "felt like doing it."

He has never set foot in the village, and knows only one person living in it—his correspondent.

The next number of our Parish Magazine will give the story of this generous and friendly gesture, and one likes to think of the pleasure and gratitude with which it will be greeted.

ONE fragment of dialogue reached my ears yesterday. I have no doubt that practically the same dialogue can be heard almost any day, anywhere in England. I have altered the names, but otherwise give it as I heard it.

"Oh yes, we've got a school in the house. We're still there, though, living in a corner."

"We've had to go into the lodge. The soldiers are in the house. But the poor Robinsons have got two schools at Robinson Hall. They're looking everywhere for a cottage."

"Poor things! I believe the Browns have a cottage they might be willing to let. It's got about five rooms, and the Browns are living there themselves, but they're thinking of moving to something smaller."

"I suppose their house is occupied?"

"Oh yes. Part of the B.B.C. has gone there . . ."

And so on.

Not very many people owning the larger type of house are to-day living in their own homes. Those who are can, and indeed must, say "We are not alone"—for scarcely anyone in the length and breadth of the country is not either dispensing or receiving hospitality.

It is not only inevitable, but absolutely right, that it should be so—and good will come of it. But we will admit honestly that to be either a guest or a host, in present-day circumstances, requires tact and forbearance and consideration. By the time we have learned to exercise these, we shall find we have revived an old-fashioned and discredited virtue that

has been rather shelved of late years: politeness. Some of us, myself included, will be glad.

PERHAPS it is the thought of *autres temps autres mœurs* that reminds me of a lady, aged ninety-two, who said the other day how very much she enjoyed dance music from the wireless.

"And when they play *The Blue Danube*, I can't resist it," she admitted. "I get out of my chair, hold on to the back of it, and do my best."

What a charming phrase is that last one! I talk with one or two others that are still occasionally and that always delight me. "I am obliged to you" is one of them; "I hope I see you well" is another. I once heard that great gentleman, Sir John Forbes-Robertson, refer to a first reception, I think in America, at which he knew that he had been greeted with tremendous and overwhelming applause, at the height of his successful career. He described it, rather diffidently, in a modest characteristic sentence: "They were very kind to me—very civil indeed."

RECENTLY heard of a district nurse in Cornwall, very hard-worked as all of them are, who was due for a holiday but was known by the committee to be unable to afford to go away.

"Very well," said a kind committee mem-

ber—a man—"she has well earned her holiday, and I only wish we could afford to give her the money to go away—but she can take a fortnight's complete rest at home."

With one voice every woman on the committee replied: "No, she can't. No woman can get a real rest in her own home, ever."

Not a woman on earth but would agree with that.

The committee, wisely and generously, thereupon voted the nurse a small grant to enable her to go away for her rest.

It was certainly the only chance of her getting one.

CRUMBS are still scattered outside the window of the dining-room, and the birds still hasten to pick them up. They no longer take any exception to Benji's presence in their midst, and he eats all the larger pieces of crust, while the robins and the sparrows, the thrushes and wrens and tits pick up the crumbs within a few inches of his questing nose.

I suppose that not many people now possess a copy—far less read it—of Mrs. Trimmer's classic *History of the Robins*? It was originally designed, by the author's own account, "For the instruction of children on their treatment of animals," but it might equally well have been "For the instruction of parents on their treatment of children," for Father and Mother Robin lectured their four nestlings in the most approved style of the Fairchild Family. Even when the mother robin taught the young birds

to "dress their feathers" she coupled with her instructions a long statement to the effect that "neatness was a very essential thing, both for health and in order to render them agreeable in the eyes of the world," while at the same time cautioning them against vanity and deceit.

But there is a good deal of real information concerning the habits of birds, mixed up with moralities that no child of to-day would tolerate, and, in one edition, a number of very attractive engravings of birds by J. Greenaway, from the drawings of Harrison Weir. In spite of all Mr. and Mrs. Robin's sermons, I should give a copy of that particular edition to any bird-loving child, and feel sure of conferring pleasure.

FOOD, it would be idle to deny it, still occupies a prominent position on the Home Front, as, indeed, it is meant to do. I was at a tea-party the other day where, for the first time in several weeks, a large home-made cake appeared. Everybody commented freely. The hostess modestly admitted that a good deal of contrivance—saving of sugar, hunting for sultanas and the like—had gone to the achievement of this triumph. She then offered a slice to the guest of honour, who accepted delightedly.

Just as the knife descended, however, the guest—evidently overcome by the magnitude of the occasion—underwent a sudden revulsion of feeling.

"No, no!" she cried heroically. "It would be such a pity to cut it!"

A DOCILE TIGER CUB

By E. H. D. SEWELL



VELVET FOOT, THE CUB WHO HAD "THE SWEETEST NATURE IMAGINABLE"



GOATS AS FOSTER-MOTHERS FOR THE MOTHERLESS TIGER-CUBS

THE crows and *koels* of Jamnagar had just heralded a cold-weather dawn when the keeper of "Ranji's" zoo, on going his rounds, became aware of a most unusual stillness in the cage where overnight he had left a tiger, tigress, and their three rollicking cubs. The tigress lay stiff and stark in one corner. In another crouched the tiger wide awake, but quiet. At a little distance was one cub; the other two were near the tigress, as though seeking warmth while waiting for breakfast. In another corner lay a cobra curled up. The keeper did the wisest possible thing. Getting a gun he polished off the cobra. The tigress had been bitten in a jowl. When she was bitten, and for how long she survived the bite, and how it was that she did not get in one "dab" with a paw that could pulverise much more than the vertebrae of a cobra there was no means of knowing.

The instant problem arose of saving the cubs. Even had there been another tigress in the zoo it is doubtful if she would have taken on the job of foster-mother without something more than a few snarls. "Ranji" ordered goats to be obtained. They proved an immediate success, and when I arrived at Jamnagar about two months after the tragedy the nursing business was going on as though the three youngsters had never known their mother.

They were playful little beggars at three months, but one of them, whom I named Velvet Foot, was utterly different from the other two. Whereas they played about and let you handle them, it was always more or less under protest. They soon became snappy. But Velvet Foot had the sweetest nature imaginable. I used frequently to carry him for fairly long spells, and before long he began almost to follow me about to order. Which, as I had nothing to do with getting him his grub, was unusual, to say the least of it.

These things happened shortly after "Ranji" had succeeded in crossing a lion and a tigress. The result was seen for some years at the Zoo in Regent's Park. Before I left Jamnagar, "Ranji," in an endeavour to cross panther and tiger, had a panther cub as a companion for Velvet Foot and his brothers.

I found it very difficult to get the snarly, disagreeable little panther to sit for his photograph with his new friends. But I tried one experiment, a short account of which may interest Anglo-Indian *shikaris* who have discussed (and who have not?) whether tigers do or do not climb trees. Arranging matters with the keeper and his staff we staged a sort of simultaneous rounding-up of the four cubs, driving them in no direction in particular. The only one of the four which made a bee-line

for the nearest tree was the panther, who managed to "speel" up about two yards of the slightly sloping trunk. This spontaneous act may prove nothing, but I found it highly indicative.

I should be loath to assert that a tiger never climbs, but I consider that all the evidence tends to show that (largely because of his great weight) he is not by habit a climber, and that the panther is. Certainly a tiger rarely, if ever, looks up into trees, whereas a panther, who is partial to monkey flesh, does so regularly.

I often wonder what became of Velvet Foot. He was the heftiest of the trio and beautifully made, even if his legs and "boots" were at that age too large for him. When I watched the trio tucking in at breakfast, as I did many a time, I could not help noting the topsy-turviness of things. For even though goats are not the normal *plat* of a full-grown tiger, here we had three highly promising cattle-lifters being saved from starvation by animals whom in about a year's time they could have slain and eaten as a kind of *hors d'oeuvre*.

It reminded me rather of the contrariety of life in Indian jungles and in a London square. Here the dog chivvies and "trees" the cat; there the cat, in the shape of *felis pardus*, kills and eats every dog he can waylay.

RETURN OF THE CHARCOAL BURNER

By M. SCHOFIELD

AS a result of the cutting-off of Continental supplies of charcoal, one of man's oldest crafts which had almost vanished from Britain is flourishing again, particularly in forests under the control of the Forestry Commission.

Few, if any, of our trades command more interest than this ancient activity of charcoal-burning. Wood charcoal, the black pigment of Egyptian tomb paintings of 1300 B.C., was old even in that era, for man won his first crude metals by virtue of it. The charcoal fire became the first metallurgical furnace when pre-dynastic Egyptians discovered copper by the accidental dropping of ore among the glowing embers. Theophrastus and Pliny have told how wood tar was used for preserving and strengthening ships, how "wood is roasted in ovens" and the strength of the resulting tar is "such that the bodies of dead men are preserved by being steeped in it."

In Great Britain—in the Forests of Dean, Sussex, and elsewhere—the old charcoal-burner carried on this ancient trade by use of meilers or piles of stumps, billets and branches. As the Romans made charcoal,



CHARGING A KILN WITH FOREST WASTE

so did these charcoal-burners maintain supplies for the many itinerant forges in our forests. Before coal and the blast-furnace came, the historian Yarranton told how "gentlemen and others do make it their business to inclose Land and sow it with Acorns to rear Coppice Woods, they knowing by experience that the Coppice Woods are ready money with the Iron Masters at all times." But when coal and coke came to the iron industry, after Abraham Darby of Coalbrookdale had spent six nights without sleep on top of his furnace and had been carried in triumph (though sleeping) by his men to his home, it looked like the end of the charcoal-burners of The Wrekin forests and elsewhere. Further, the growth of the chemical industry brought much attention to wood spirit, acetone and acetic acid distilled from wood waste in retorts. Charcoal was prepared in the steel retorts, so this modern method of production seemed certain to supply any demands apart from iron smelting.

Yet history repeats itself, as again and again the old charcoal-burner puts in his intermittent appearance. The steel-maker found a special virtue in "turf-burnt" charcoal with its higher proportion of carbon. Other smelting trades also preferred it in certain cases, while charcoal found many new uses, as for example in the preparation of the finest golf greens and grass plots.

Moreover, the chemist with his expensive steel



CHARCOAL-BURNER'S KILNS IN THE WYRE FOREST WITH TIMBER AND FOREST WASTE PREPARED FOR USE

retorts for charcoal-making had not reckoned with his brethren who discovered more efficient processes for preparing acetic acid and wood spirit, so that few wood distillation factories remain in Britain. So, just as a charcoal-burner bobbed up to "discover" the body of King Rufus in history, so does the charcoal-burner in more modern days refuse to abandon his craft. He builds his meiler of forest branches laid horizontally or vertically, covers it with turf with ventilation holes left in it, and, with an eye to the prevailing wind, starts his operation requiring several days and nights of careful watching; he was the first fire-watcher! He claims to have inherited from his forefathers a "draught sense" among other characteristics. At the end of his vigil he allows the meiler to cool, quenches the brands with water and removes "foxy" charcoal which is half-burned.

The war has given him not only a new lease of life but also a new weapon. In place of his crude turf covering to prevent complete combustion of the forest waste, the Timber Supplies Department of the Forestry Commission has stepped in and provided efficient kilns.

In the Wyre Forest and in other forests such kilns not only carry out the operation in twenty hours, but maintain full control and avoid the necessity for water supplies for quenching. They are more than giant garden incinerators, for they must effect partial combustion only and yet avoid "foxy" charcoal or "fumerons." They are similar in action and design to the French type, the *fours mobiles* used by the Société Nationale d'Encouragement à l'Utilisation des Carburants Forestiers. There are three cylindrical sections built up, with a lid holding the central smoke-stack. As in the French type there are four air vents or iron pipes passing through the earth piled at the base to seal off the latter, and four side chimneys to carry off fumes not evacuated by the centre stack.

In charging a kiln the forest waste is piled on end to leave a centre space or chimney as in the case of a meiler. After the twenty-hour period the central stack is replaced by a circular steel plate, the side chimneys are removed and the vents are closed to seal off the hot charcoal. The finished product is that fine charcoal for which the old charcoal-burner was noted, a charcoal giving a metallic "clack" when struck and hardly soiling the fingers. It is packed into 50lb. bags, and a caterpillar tractor, hauling it from the dense forest lane to a main road, brings evidence to the outer world that the charcoal-burner has returned to his native woodland.

[The photographs in this article were taken by permission of the Timber Supplies Department of the Forestry Commission.]



WEIGHING OF BAGS OF CHARCOAL BESIDE THE KILNS

CORRESPONDENCE

OUR HARVEST OF NATIVE HERBS

From Lady Demetriadi.

SIR,—Those who are familiar with the following lines of coupling:—

Excellent herbs had our fathers of old
Excellent herbs to ease their pain,
We are not surprised, as are many town-dwellers,
When they hear that our native herbs are badly
neglected. I refer not so much to the well-known
herbs, such as mint and thyme, but to those
which are used medicinally.

We still have the "excellent herbs" growing in
the hedgerow, but our fathers were wiser in
their generation and every manor and cottage dried
herbs of their own. Our lazy generation has relied
entirely on herbs imported from the Continent,
and before long many prescriptions "to ease our
pain" will be impossible to dispense.

There are willing people to gather our vast
treasure of herbs, but the processes of drying and
storage are more difficult; and central drying
sheds are badly needed, in every county.

The magnitude of the task can be gauged when
it is known that 1,000 tons of stinging nettles are
needed for chlorophyll, which would weigh about
100 tons when dry.

Herbs should not be dried in the sun, but in
shaded heated sheds to preserve the colour, and
turned every day until crisp. Stocks should not be
over-centralised on account of bombing.

Many wild herbs have been cultivated, with the
result that what Gerard calls the "virtue" of the
plant is lost. The wild ones prove best on analysis.

Where there is lack of agriculture the wild plants
to be used, and it would be well to turn this seeming
waste land to profit. Let every child be taught
which herbs to gather, and at which season. Fox-
glove leaves, for digitalis, should be picked only
from two-year-old plants, when the flower spikes
are in bloom half way up the stem, for at this stage
of growth alkalinity is greatest.

Owners of barns might lend them for drying
sheds, but a grant for equipment is badly needed
from the Ministry of Health to put this valuable
industry, of benefit to the national health and
finance, on a sound footing.

Each central shed should have a paid worker
for at least six months of the year, to keep the
sheds afloat, and turn the herbs and pack them.

Organisation and co-operation are needed to get
the small man's herbs taken into the central drying
sheds. With goodwill this should be easy.

May I begin by asking your goodwill to publish
this letter, in the hope that it will rouse the country
to the importance of this nearly lost and vital
industry.—GULIELMA DEMETRIADI, 20, Chesham
Place, London, S.W.1.

PIGEONS ON WAR SERVICE

SIR,—So much interest has been shown in the
racing pigeons exhibited at Hammersmith during
War Weapons Week that a few notes on some of
these birds and their performances may not come
amiss. All are the property of Mr. G. Noterman, of
"F" Division, National Pigeon Service, and in
pre-war days had won their laurels as racers over
distances up to 500 miles. With the outbreak of
hostilities, of course, all such activities came to an
end, and all racing pigeon lofts were at once placed
under strict Government supervision. Many
patriotic owners at once came forward and placed
their birds at the disposition of the authorities,
with the result that they were able to perform
valuable service to the nation, more especially
during the Battle of Britain, when several of those
from Mr. Noterman's loft earned honourable scars.



HEROES OF OUR WAR

(Left) Scaramouche arrived with his dispatch, but with his right side blown away by shrapnel
(Right) Mactavish. On active service since August, 1940, delivered despatches although wounded in the wing

Scaramouche, hatched in 1936, had already com-
peted frequently in long-distance racing when war
broke out, and since August, 1940, it has been his
proud lot to carry important despatches. He has
carried out his last mission, for on September 4 last
he struggled home to his loft with his despatch
although his right side had been blown away by
shrapnel. The wound has healed, and at a casual
glance he looks all right; but his right wing
has a permanent droop, and he will never fly again.
Another veteran, Mactavish, still a young bird, since
he was only hatched in 1938, delivered his message
although wounded in the wing; in his case, however,
the damage is not permanent, and he is as good a
man as ever he was. Sunshine—hatched in 1937—
has also been on active service since August last
year, and in his racing days he was awarded first
prize for averaging 784yds. a minute to Newark—
a truly remarkable speed by any but modern ma-
chine standards. Now and then the feathered and
four-footed allies of man have received honour in
memorials of war. The best-known instance of the
kind is the Scottish War Memorial with its tribute
to any and every living creature which played its
part in the struggle of 1914-18, while South Africa
has two, the Boer War Horse Memorial at Port
Elizabeth and that at Gwelo which commemorates
the share of the horses, oxen and donkeys in the
occupation of Rhodesia. And when the memorials
of the victory over the Nazi terror come to be
planned, assuredly the racing pigeons which shared
its dangers and its honour should not be forgotten.
—C. FOX SMITH, Droxford, Hampshire.

HOW TO MAKE COWSLIP BALLS

SIR,—Miss Delafield lamented in your Summer
Number the fact that few people now know how to
make cowslip balls. This seems so very strange and
sad to me that I am really sorry for them and
hasten to give the recipe—though I fear that my
letter, if you print it, may be too late to lead to any
great output of cowslip balls this season.

My mother used to bring into our nursery a
big bunch of cowslips and we were allowed, if old
enough to understand, to break off the stems
close to each head of flowers. Then two chairs
were put back to back with perhaps a yard's
space between them, and a piece of narrow tape
tied to the top of one and carried across and tied to

the top of the other. On this tight-rope the heads
of the flowers were put to, as it were, ride astride,
being kept as close together as possible in the middle
of the tape. Then came the exciting moment when
we all held our breath while the two ends were very
carefully untied from the chairs, brought together,
knotted and pulled tight—and there was a cowslip
ball! I never remember a failure to achieve this, but
the tying is a delicate operation requiring steady
hands and a cool head. After that another knot or
two, a snip with the scissors to remove the long ends
of the tape and I and my sister were ready to tell
our fortunes with these flower balls, throwing them
up and batting them into the air—not catching them—while we chanted—

Tisty tossy, tell me true

Whom shall I be married to?

"Tisty tossy" seemed to be another name for
cowslip ball.—ELIZABETH STEWARD, Crouch End, N.

"SOME FINE MODEL SHIPS"

SIR,—In your issue of June 7 reference is made,
I see, to the celebrated tea clipper *Caliph*, the total
disappearance of which in the China seas has never
been satisfactorily accounted for.

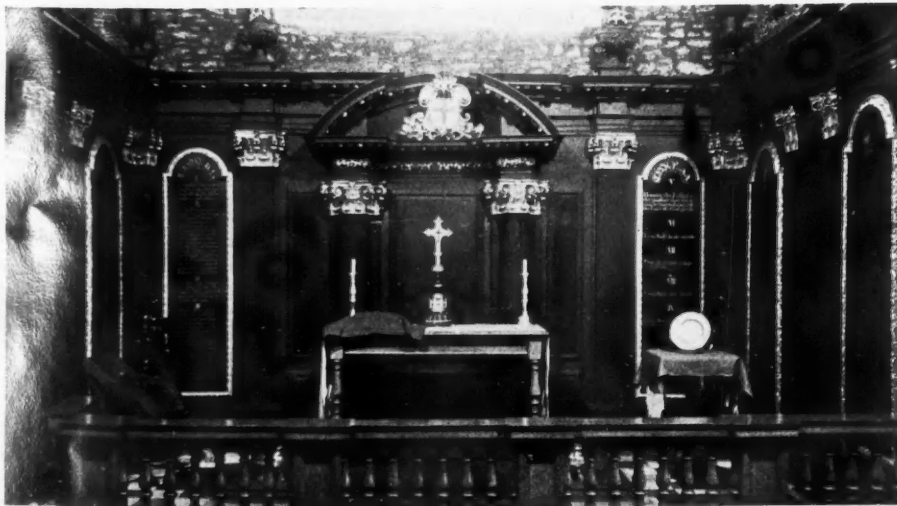
I do not think, however, that it is quite correct
to quote the year 1850 in connection with the vessel
concerned, as she was, I believe, designed largely
with a view to beating the *Thermopylae*, and was
launched from Messrs. Hall's yard at Aberdeen on
September 6, 1869.

Regarding the facts of the *Caliph's* career,
brief though it unfortunately was, conflicting state-
ments have appeared in print, and it would be
interesting if the seeming discrepancy could be
cleared up. In *The China Clippers*, by Basil Lubbock,
it is implied, though not actually stated, that the
loss of the *Caliph* took place on the homeward
passage of her maiden voyage, and this version of
the event is given by your contributor.

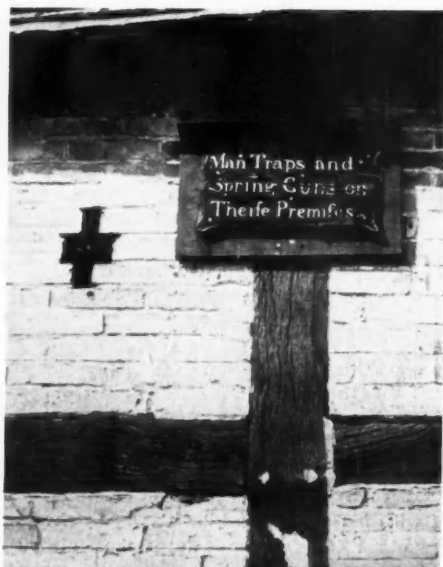
Mr. Lubbock's more recent work *The Last of
the Windjammers*, however, contains a more extended
reference to the subject, and the greater degree
of detail therein given leads one to suppose that
it is this later version that is correct. According
to this seemingly more accurate account of the
matter the *Caliph's* maiden voyage commenced at
London on October 13, 1869, and Shanghai was
reached after a passage of 111 days. After visiting
Bangkok and Yokohama, the *Caliph* loaded tea for
New York, where she arrived in 88 days from
Foochow on March 3, 1871. From New York she
crossed the Atlantic to the Thames, and again took
on board a cargo for Shanghai. The *Caliph* is
known to have passed Anjer, outward bound, on
this, her second voyage, on August 15, 1871, but
since then no trace of her has ever been found.—
A. W. YOUNG, 31, Granville Court, Jesmond, New-
castle-upon-Tyne.

THE WEAVERS' CHAPEL

SIR,—Among the fine things destroyed in recent
raids on Bristol was the screen from the Weavers'
Chapel in Temple Church. It was removed some
years ago from the north side of the chancel and
re-erected at the east end of the south aisle. The
ancient Weavers' Guild had become so depleted in
1786 that their hall was converted to a synagogue
for Jews. This screen was remarkable for being
of mahogany, as to the portion along the east wall,
the returns being of deal. The latter contained
almost life-size paintings of Aaron, St. Peter and
St. Paul, by a local artist named Boucher. The
rich capitals of the columns were recently gilded
(their original condition), when the urns at the top
were added. The date of the work was early eigh-
teenth century.—WARP.



THE SCREEN FROM THE WEAVERS' CHAPEL, TEMPLE CHURCH, BRISTOL



AN XVIIIth CENTURY WARNING
MAN TRAPS

SIR,—This old sign—probably between 150 and 200 years old and not so very uncommon when it was set up—is preserved in the wall of a farm building near Leamington Spa.—S.L.R.

A MEDIAEVAL TITHE BARN

SIR,—Mr. Walton's interesting note on the turf barn at Barden, Wharfedale, makes it appropriate to point out that the adjoining valley of the Aire has a barn which, though of a totally different type, deserves far more attention than it generally receives. Since the National Trust came into possession of East Riddlesden Hall, Keighley, in 1934, the huge timbered barn of this property has been opened out and restored, and it now ranks as one of the finest examples of a mediaeval tithe barn in the north. Its floor covers some 4,800 sq. ft., and oak pillars on stone bases support the arched, timbered roof. The door has wooden pegs in place of nails, and the whole barn, in its cathedral-like dignity, stands as a fitting relic of the days when the monks farmed Britain. I send a photograph of the exterior.—A. TURNER, London, W.C.1.



ONE OF THE FINEST MEDIAEVAL TITHE BARNs IN THE
NORTH OF ENGLAND

scanty records of the Penystones merely allude to a 'Miss Powney of Bucks.' I remembered coming across the name in connection with some house I had visited in the county and thought it was Dorney. If I had verified my recollection, I should have found that the link is really with Ockwells Manor, which in 1786 was

IN RUTLANDSHIRE

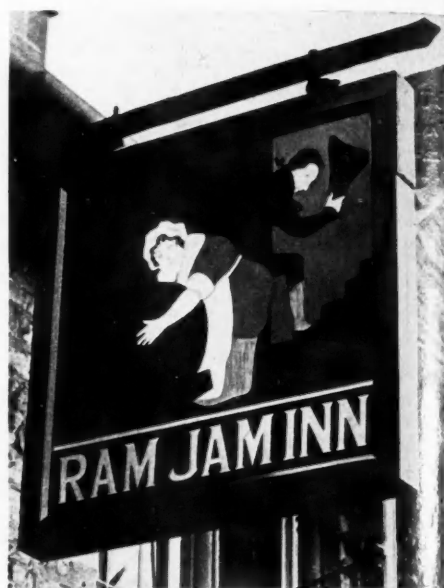
SIR,—In Rutlandshire, on the Great North Road, between Grantham and Stamford, stands an inn, which derives its name from an amusing incident of coaching days, when the hostelry was known as the Winchelsea Arms.

A guest who had charmed the others by his generosity and merry spirits during a week's stay confided to the landlady that he would show her how to draw mild and bitter ale from the same barrel. When her husband was absent he took her into the cellar, bored a hole in one side of the barrel and instructed her to ram her thumb against it. "Now jam your other thumb here," he said, making a hole on the opposite side. Leaving the lady thus fully occupied embracing the barrel, he collected his baggage and went—without paying his bill. The inn sign depicts the scene.—TRAVELLER.

AT DORNEY COURT

SIR,—In Mr. Hussey's article on Cornwell Manor in your issue of COUNTRY LIFE for May 24, I read with interest that Sir Fairmeadow Penystone married "secondly a Miss Powney, whose family lived at Dorney Court, Bucks," apparently in the seventeenth century. Now as my own family has lived at Dorney Court since Sir James Palmer, son of Sir Thomas Palmer of Wingham married the heiress of Dorney, Martha Garrard, in James I's reign and is still there to this day, it would be interesting to know who this Miss Powney was. Perhaps you could enlighten me?—BRIDGET B. U. D. CLINCH, *nee PALMER, of Dorney Court, Buckinghamshire.*

[Mr. Hussey writes: "This just shows that unless memory is always verified, some reader of COUNTRY LIFE will always catch one out. The



A SIGN WITH A STORY

bought by Penyston Portlock Powney, M.P., Verderer of Windsor Forest—a very suggestive name in this connection. The Powneys it can now be added, were an old Bray family springing from a yeoman who was something of a character in James I's reign. Sir Fairmeadow's wife evidently came from that stock, and possibly Cornwell was left by him to his wife's relations, as he had no children."—ED.]

THE DEFENCE OF AN OLD WOODING RIGHT

SIR,—Wishford, a pretty Wiltshire village in the Wylve Valley, near Salisbury, has a picturesque custom dating from ancient times. On Oak-apple Day, May 29, the villagers collect branches of oak at daybreak from Grovely Wood near by, and decorate their houses with them. At noon the Oak-apple Club commence their festivities with a circuit of the village, followed by a fête.

The story is told that one of the Earls of Pembroke once tried to stop the villagers' right to collect wood. "No man dare disobey." However, a woman, one Grace Reed, did and defied his lordship, proving that the right belonged to the common people.

In the modern day procession, the banner bearing the legend comes first; next follow four women bearing on their heads bundles of firewood. Then comes a company of men with huge boughs on their shoulders, to be followed in turn by the children dressed in fancy costume. Past the bough-bedecked thatched cottages, past the thirteenth-century church they go, and so to a fair ground for the rest of the day.—REECE CABOT, *Blagdon, Somerset.*



AT WISHFORD: THE BANNER FOLLOWED BY FOUR
WOMEN WITH LOADS OF FIREWOOD



A COTTAGE WITH ITS DECORATION OF OAK BOUGHS FROM
GROVELY WOOD FOR OAK-APPLE DAY



MUSSOLINI ON DARTMOOR

BOWERMAN'S NOSE

SIR.—One might mistake this for a striking portrait of Mussolini in a characteristic pose, but actually it is a gaunt pile of granite stones 30ft. high called Bowerman's Nose on Dartmoor, near Manaton, Devon.—F. R. WINSTONE, 22, Somerset Square, Bristol, 1.

A HOME-MADE POTATO PLANTER

SIR.—I thought your readers might be interested in this photograph of a home-made potato-planter used in Hampshire. It is a large funnel fixed to the side of the plough and it enables one man to kneel on the plough and, with a large basket of potatoes in front of him, to drop the potatoes directly into the furrow while the plough is in motion, so that planting and covering is performed in one operation.—G. R. I. GILLET, Hinton Woodlands, Bramdean, Alresford, Hampshire.

CHEESE FROM GOATS' MILK

SIR.—It does not seem to be generally appreciated what a wide variety of extremely delicious cheeses can be made by even the veriest amateur goat-keeper.

A county instructor in dairying, who is trying to start a goat milk cheese drive and is sending suitable recipes to goat-keepers in his area, expressed surprise to me that more people with goats do not try their hand at making cheese.

In parts of Sussex the idea is already becoming popular, and I have the recipes of six delicious cheeses which can be made from this milk. Space will not permit me to reproduce all of these here, but I give the details of two.

Cream Cheese.—Take very thick cream and cool to 65 degrees in three hours. Hang to drain in a moderately warm place in a draught. Scrape down and turn sides to middle at intervals of six hours. Salt to taste when nearly set. Mould while still sweet.

Bondon Cheese.—Made with two pints of butter-

milk or sour milk with 1½ gallons of whole milk. Heat to 70 degrees. Add 1 c.c. rennet to 1 gallon of mixture. Leave to set about two hours. Cut and ladle into cloths for draining. Should be ready in two days.—NORMAN WYMER, Appleacre, Ashacre Lane, Worthing.

A DRUNKARD'S REFORM

SIR.—Situated at New Mills, Derbyshire, is the house depicted by the accompanying photograph, which should serve the useful purpose of an object lesson for any temperance society caring to make use of it. On the stone slab to the right of the upper windows is engraved the following:—

A DRUNKARD'S REFORM

"A working man, and a teetotaler for ten years, who was formerly a notorious poacher, has recently invested his earnings in the purchase of the town prison, which he has converted into a comfortable dwelling house. Frequently an inmate of the prison whilst a drunkard and a poacher, he is now owner of the whole and occupier of the premises. THOMAS HANDFORD, A.D. 1854."—K. RAWLINSON, Rock Bank, Whaley Bridge, nr. Stockport.

BUZZARD QUERIES

SIR.—Evidently, well-informed ornithologists are agreed about the generally harmless character of the common buzzard, but there are two or three disputable points which may profitably be ventilated. First, records suggest that buzzards quite often kill and eat adders. As there seems to be no other British bird which habitually eats adders (indeed, hedge-hogs are commonly said to be the only non-human enemy which Britain's one venomous snake has to face), I suggest that adder-killing is a specially interesting trait, and that more observations



THE REWARD OF REFORM

Lastly, can anyone give news of the experiment of two years ago, when an attempt was made to re-establish buzzards, by turning down young birds obtained from Wales, in the Hindhead area of Surrey? During the severe weather of January, 1940, the buzzards apparently departed, but some were reported to have come back near the beginning of the nesting season. For the last twelve months, however, nothing seems to have been published about this most interesting venture.—J.W., Berkshire.

[Our correspondent raises several interesting points with regard to the buzzard. It is known to take snakes, blindworms and lizards, but further observations would, as suggested, be of value. We believe the buzzard to be on the increase rather than on the decrease. We are without information as to the progress of the Surrey experiment, and as the gentleman who initiated it is abroad we fear it has lapsed.—ED.]

FRENCH PRISONERS OF WAR ON DARTMOOR

SIR.—In the porch of the church of Moreton Hampstead on Dartmoor are memorial stones to two officers of Napoleon's army, who died here in captivity. I send a photograph of one of them—of topical interest in these days of another little corporal on the Continent.—E. P. S.



THE POTATOES FALL THROUGH THE FUNNEL INTO THE FURROW

on the buzzard's methods might be collected. Secondly, there seems to be a popular misconception about the numbers and status of buzzards. It is often suggested (as in an article in COUNTRY LIFE of March 25, 1939) that buzzards are declining; but the truth seems to be, fortunately, that they are more than holding their own in most areas where they exist at all, and that their nesting range tends to expand. At the same time, the proportion of buzzards' eggs which fail to hatch and to be reared for one reason or another (thieving crows seem to cause most disasters) is probably larger than is suspected. Here again, facts and figures from different areas would be of value.

(Left)
THE GOAT-MILKING(Right)
AT MORETON HAMPSTEAD.
The grave of one of Napoleon's officers

OTHER PEOPLE'S LETTERS

A Review by EDWARD SHANKS

A Treasury of the World's Great Letters, edited by M. Lincoln Schuster. (Heinemann, 12s. 6d.)

MOST of us will agree with Mr. Schuster that "letters make the most interesting reading in the world—especially other people's." What, however, with others is a liking, is evidently with him a passion. He tells us that he has been collecting letters since 1915 and has accumulated enough to fill several mammoth volumes. At last he "decided to concentrate discriminating and ruthlessly on the winnowed best." This volume is the result.

On what principle he has "winnowed" I must confess myself quite unable to discern. Some of these documents aren't letters at all in the sense in which we usually understand the term, not, that is to say, familiar letters. One item is a series of extracts from St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians. Another is Stevenson's open letter to Dr. Hyde on the subject of Father Damien. A third is Herr Thomas Mann's open letter to the Dean of the Philosophical Faculty at Bonn on the removal of his name from the list of honorary doctors. If there is any logical scheme which can include these between the same covers with, say, Elizabeth Barrett Browning's first letter home after her marriage and Beethoven's letters to the "immortal beloved," then it has escaped me.

If what Mr. Schuster has included is sometimes baffling, so is what he has omitted. No Cicero! No Lamb! And sometimes he makes me uneasy about the scholarship of his annotations, as, for example, when he refers to Poppaea as Nero's mistress, whereas she was indubitably his wife.

But enough of complaints, because, when all is said and done, this is a grand book for browsing in, with something in it for everyone. Mr. Schuster is careful to set each letter in its context, with some explanation of the writer and the recipient, of why the letter was written and what its results were, thus contributing to understanding without undue sacrifice of space.

If we leave aside those items, the presence of which I find incomprehensible, the rest is a judicious mixture of the familiar and the unfamiliar. Among old favourites, I was pleased to find Madame de Sévigné's famous account of the tragedy of Vatel, the great chef of the Prince de Condé, who killed himself because he supposed (erroneously) that there wasn't enough fish for a banquet at which the King was to be present. And I own I had forgotten how the letter goes on, after describing how the poor fellow was found "lying in a sea of blood":—

The King said he had put off this excursion for more than five years because he was aware it would be attended with infinite trouble. He told the Prince that he ought to have had but two tables, and not have been at the expense of so many, and declared that he would never suffer him to do so again; but all this was too late for poor Vatel. However, Gourville attempted to supply the loss of Vatel, which he did in great measure. The dinner was elegant, the collation the same. They supped, they walked, they hunted; all was perfumed with jonquils, all was enchantment. . . .

Among the unfamiliar gifts which Mr. Schuster brings us is a letter from Madame Du Barry, then still Jeanne Bécu, to a M. Duval in which after beginning with: "Yes, my dear friend, I have told you, and repeat it: I love you dearly," she goes on: "I begin to know the world. . . . I don't want to remain a shopgirl, but a little more my own mistress, and would therefore like to find someone to keep me." She then goes very sensibly into questions of finance and ends: "If you love me, accept this proposal; but if you do not love me, then let each of us try his luck elsewhere."

A character quite different from Madame Du Barry, is Edgar Wilson Nye. There are probably many of my generation who vaguely remember the name of "Bill Nye" as a popular American humorist who was never popular over here.

Here we have his beginnings. In 1882 the Postmaster General of the United States, handing out favours, perhaps inadvertently appointed Mr. Nye to the not very significant postmastership of Laramie, Wyoming. Mr. Nye seems to have been overcome by laughter and acknowledged his appointment in a letter from which this is an extract:

I look upon the appointment, myself, as a great triumph of eternal truth over error and wrong. It is one of the epochs, I may say, in the Nation's onward march towards political purity and perfection. I do not know when I have noticed any stride in the affairs of State which so thoroughly impressed me with its wisdom.

Now that we are co-workers in the same department, I trust that you will not feel shy or backward in consulting me at any time relative to matters concerning post office affairs. Be perfectly frank with me, and feel perfectly free to just bring anything of that kind right to me. Do not feel reluctant because I may at times appear haughty and indifferent, cold or reserved. . . . With profoundest regard, and a hearty endorsement of the policy of the President and the Senate, whatever it may be.

I remain, sincerely yours,

Bill Nye, P.M.

This letter was widely circulated and did Bill Nye so much good that after a year he was able to resign his postmastership. This time he wrote his letter to the President, whom he warned, "It will be best, perhaps, to keep the heart-breaking news from the ears of European powers until the dangers of a financial panic are fully past. Then hurl it broadcast with a sickening thud."

If I had no other reasons for gratitude to Mr. Schuster (this book gives me many), I should be grateful for this proof that Bill Nye's reputation was not undeserved.

ON TRISTAN DA CUNHA

WHAT is there about an island which has such an irresistible appeal to most imaginations? The question is one to which it is hard to give a satisfactory answer; but the fact is there all the same, and that is probably the principal reason why Mr. Allan B. Crawford's account of his stay on Tristan da Cunha, *I Went to Tristan* (Hodder and

Stoughton, 18s.), makes such alluring reading. As a matter of cold fact, there is in most respects nothing very out-of-the-way about Tristan except its out-of-the-wayness, though one of the islands in its group, Inaccessible, has a bird—the island cock—found in no other place in the world. Tristan is not specially beautiful, as islands go. It has no stirring history, nor, indeed, much history at all beyond its chronicle of shipwrecks. It has no associations such as cling about St. Helena. No, it is just an island—a lump of volcanic rock thrusting itself up in mid-ocean, and known, not without just claim, as the world's loneliest inhabited island. Mr. Crawford went there as one of the staff of a Norwegian scientific expedition, engaged on a complete survey of Tristan and its neighbors, Nightingale and Inaccessible, as well as of Gough Island, even lonelier but without inhabitants, two hundred and sixty miles distant. Mr. Crawford stayed there for four months, during which time he learned much about Tristan and its people, and the result is a volume which throws much light on this remote spot on the earth's surface, and on the speech, the customs, the songs and dances, and the nomenclature of the island.

ROYAL LIVES

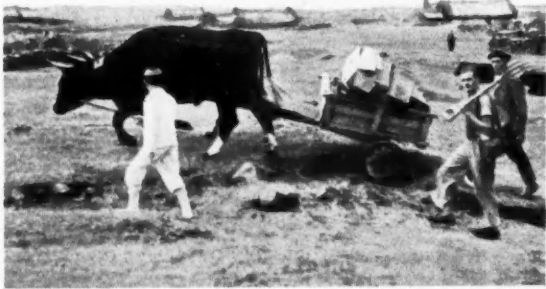
In several previous volumes Miss Erica Neal has proved her fitness for dealing with biographies of Royalty. Now, in *King Emperor* (Collins, 18s.), she traces the course of the life of King George VI. Necessarily, all the earlier part of the book covers trodden ground, Queen Victoria still being on the throne; but even there the author, by means of some little-known anecdotes and indications of character, manages to infuse a freshness into her narrative. Naturally, however, it is the war years and those immediately leading up to them that are the most interesting to present-day readers; and here the author shows what she can do in the way of tact that does not degenerate into servility. Her chapter, *Facts About the Abdication*, is a particularly good example of this. There are accounts of the Royal tours in the Dominions and Colonies, and of the visit to the United States; there is information about the two wars preceding the present one; there are stories and illustrations. From it all one clear impression emerges, and is confirmed by a study of the King's face in manhood. What looks out from that face is simple, honest goodness. It is a quality that the British people recognise, value above all other qualities, and salute to-day with unbreakable loyalty and love.

HERRING

Man's work and love, thought and feeling, set against and on the northern seas, is the subject of Mr. Neil M. Gunn's fullest and richest novel, *The Silver Darlings* (Faber and Faber, 10s. 6d.). It is an immensely satisfying book, even though we suspect that it might have gained by being shorter. It is not only a record of life in a Scottish community dependent on fishing, but also a passionately sincere and delicate analysis of springs of the human heart. The silver darlings of the title are, of course, the shoals of herring; and the book deals with the early, prosperous years of the industry when the Highland crofters, driven by landlords from their cottages and acres, first suffered and starved on barren sea shores, and then found a new livelihood on the sea. The drama and excitement, the danger and rivalry of it carry the reader far from to-day in a prose style both simple and noble. The recorded events belong to the past, but the courage, skill and character hammered out by adversity and the sea are in the blood of the men who now defend our shores in Navy or Merchant Service; and it is character, now as ever, which is the firm foundation of the road to victory.

VARIED SHORT STORIES

Sensitive understanding and sympathy give Lord Gorell a wide range of subject and treatment in the short stories collected under the title of *Wild Thyme* (Murray, 7s. 6d.). Other-worldliness is a subject that evidently fascinates the author; it is one, however, in which one must either hit or miss, and not all of the tales in this kind are hits. But *Wild Thyme* itself, the opening story, is completely significant and successful. At the opposite extreme of the author's range are some good short thrillers, *A Fly in the Ointment* being particularly well done. Between these two extremes, perhaps the most memorable thing is a tender evocation of death in youth and in war: the brief sketch, *Daum*.



TRANSPORT ON TRISTAN: AN OX-WAGON
Note the small capacity of the cart, which has to be made from any old pieces of wood that can be collected together. There may then be a wait of months before nails are forthcoming. Queen Mary recently sent out a large crate of nails, so that it will be some time before there is another nail famine. Except for donkeys this is Tristan's only form of transport.

(From *I Went to Tristan*.)

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FARMING NOTES

SHARING THE SHEARING

SHORN ewes are now a common sight. The first I noticed this year were north of the Tweed: the season in the south is not always ahead of the north—indeed, this year the winter corn in the Lothians looks a good deal more advanced than the wheat and oats in Hampshire. The business of sheep-shearing has changed a good deal in recent years. At home we used to employ a gang of hand-shearers from a neighbouring village; the head man was a thatcher, two of his sons came with him, and the rest of the team included a roadman, a bricklayer and others who could be spared for a fortnight's shearing. This team dispersed three or four years ago, and then we had to look to our own resources. It was a good thing the change came when it did. To-day there are no able-bodied men in the district with any spare time, and it may not be so easy to buy a shearing machine now, though I know they can be got, because I happened to be in the shop of the local agricultural engineer last week when a neighbour was placing an order for a shearing machine. What we do at home now is to arrange with a neighbour to share the shearing. We have the machine and he sends a man to help us at shearing time, and then we send over the machine and one of our men with it. We do not achieve any record figures. The average throughout per man is 60 to 65 ewes in the day, and our flock of 250 half-breds takes two days' full shearing. This is a miserable performance compared with what some of the crack shearers can do in Australia. I believe they run into two or three hundred sheep a day, but no doubt they have plenty of people to wait on them and keep them going without delay of any kind. Machine shearing is not a difficult job to learn. Some of the Women's Land Army have been trying their hands at it, and I am told that they have got on so well that they mean to form a shearing gang next summer and make a lot of money for themselves.

THE steady flow of women coming on to farms for training continues week after week. The last total figure I heard for the Women's Land Army was 11,500. A good many of the girls seem to be going to the War Agricultural Committees for a period of preliminary training. This is all to the good. Many of them come from towns where they are accustomed to seeing a good many people, and, if they start their life on the land in company with several others who have had the same upbringing, the change is not so drastic as if they had been put suddenly into an isolated farmhouse where everything is strange. Some of the girls newly joined up in the Women's Land Army say that they want to drive tractors, and a few of them do take to it very well, but it is not everyone's job. Women show themselves at their best with animals, and if a girl will take the under-stockman's place so that he can be released for work on the land, she is rendering good service to the nation. There are still a good many dairy farms where women could be employed, and more of them will find their places there as a result of the comb-out of young agricultural workers which the war agricultural committees are now undertaking.

ONE of the questions which the committee has to ask is whether the work that a young man of 20 to 25 is doing could be done by a woman. If he is a milker, the answer is clear: he could either be released for the armed forces or doing a man's job out in the fields. There is little doubt in my mind that when the autumn comes we shall find ourselves faced with a still bigger food production campaign, and that the Government will decide that no skilled farm worker can be spared from the land. There are a certain number of people engaged more or less in agriculture who might serve the country better in uniform, but the tendency to-day is to reinforce industry both in factory and field as the best means of supporting the

trained fighting man. In this war it is machines and supplies rather than an army vast in numbers that count. Obviously, the more food we can produce at home, the less call need be made on shipping for food supplies and the more shipping can be devoted to essential war materials coming from America.

IT was high time that the Ministry of Supply tackled seriously the problem of waste food and its conversion into feeding-stuffs for pigs and poultry. The Waste Food Board which has now been set up under the chairmanship of Mr. R. C. Morrison, M.P., is competent to do the job well. Mr. Morrison, who is the M.P. for Tottenham, is one of the leading spirits in that borough's enterprise. Tottenham was one of the first to organise a collection of kitchen waste and convert it by drying into useful food for pigs. Some of the kitchen waste collected in Tottenham goes to feed the pigs which the dustmen themselves keep. The other members of the Waste Food Board are Major A. C. Bonsor, Miss Megan Lloyd George, M.P., who has been one of the most active Members of Parliament on this question, and Lieutenant-Colonel G. O. Pollitt, who farms on a large scale in Shropshire, and has successful experience of grass-drying and other means of making use of everything that can be saved. The amount of waste food available is said to be between 450,000 and 500,000 tons a year, and of that figure about a quarter is already being collected by local authorities and sold to farmers. Another 60,000 tons is being collected by contractors and farmers themselves. Clearly there is scope for a much more intensive effort. This waste material, which consists largely of potato peelings and vegetable waste with very little in the way of meat scraps these days, is not of the highest feeding value, but it is useful stuff, and in view of the very short supplies of feeding-stuffs that will be available next winter, none of this should be wasted. CINCINNATUS.

THE ESTATE MARKET

VENDORS WITH THE SERVICES

EXAMINATION of particulars of sale and other announcements shows that fully 40 per cent. of the vendors of property at present are members of the Services. Some, including a well-known M.P. who resumed military service long after age would have exempted him, have laid down their lives. All have found that it was impracticable to continue to hold houses and land which they could no longer look after, and many a carefully managed little property, that provided its occupying owner with pleasure and profit, has already changed hands, and others are in the market.

Executors' sales account for 25 per cent. of current offers, some 10 or 15 per cent. are on behalf of perpetual corporations such as hospitals and educational foundations, and the remaining 25 per cent. come from persons who would normally have placed their properties on sale.

It is satisfactory to be able to say that all these classes of vendors are finding a pretty good response to their proposals, and that the percentage of immediate sales is a high one, apart from the very active tendency of the market where private negotiation begins and ends a transaction. At the same time it must be acknowledged that the total volume of sales falls this year far below that of a year ago, and that the result, in the decrease under the official head of stamp duties, and still more the diminution of fees to solicitors and agents, is as evident as it is unwelcome. At the London Auction Mart practically the only business done this year has been the sale of reversionary interests and life policies, and these sales to some extent reflect the abnormal conditions, and the need for available cash even at the cost of sacrificing useful and valuable belongings. Of London real property little or nothing is heard, for owners see no use in trying to sell, and the market is less in their favour than is the case in regard to urban premises and sites in a good many country centres.

ETON AND GUY'S HOSPITAL LAND

EVER since the original grant from the Crown, the Provost and Scholars of Eton have held land at North Mundham, near Chichester and Bognor Regis. It was formerly copyhold of the manor of

Brimfast and Fishers, and is known as Fisher Farm. The 136 acres will be sold in lots, on June 18 at Chichester, by Messrs. Rawlence and Squarey. One of the lots will be a picturesque old thatched cottage in over an acre of delightful garden. The advantage of tenancy under such a corporation is seen in that since 1904 the rent of £12 a year, for this little freehold, has remained unchanged.

The Governors of Guy's Hospital have resolved to dispose of 3,100 acres of their Essex estates in and around Great Bardfield, a parish on the upper reaches of the Blackwater, not far from Dunmow. Old-established tenants hold some of the farms, and other holdings can be entered on the completion of the purchases. Growing timber, many nice cottages, and a large area that in ordinary times would be snapped up for development are among the lots. Private offers are invited pending the auction, which will be held at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, on July 11, by Messrs. Alfred Savill and Sons. The managing agents of the estate are Messrs. Strutt and Parker's Chelmsford office.

A reminder may be usefully given that Captain W. J. C. Berington's Flintshire freeholds will come under the hammer of Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff, at Chester on June 24. There are a dozen small farms, in all 225 acres, producing nearly £360 a year. The vendor is a member of an old family of landowners in Shropshire and on and near the Malvern Hills.

PROPERTIES AT FIXED PRICES

THE practice of quoting prices in announcements of offers is gaining ground, and the two or three agencies that so long enjoyed a monopoly of it, with undoubted advantage, know how helpful towards sales the system is. In prevalent circumstances would-be buyers welcome the statement of prices, for it saves enquiries and fruitless journeys and negotiations. It is no secret that in some instances the quoted price is not unalterably fixed, and that it marks rather an upward limit than anything else. Probably few would-be buyers come down with a firm offer of the quoted price, although that does happen, and before the present war there was one case where a buyer telephoned to a West-end agent to know if the property (a

considerable area in the west of England) remained available, and, being told that it did, despatched a cheque for the deposit by messenger forthwith, and that transaction was a five-figure one!

Selecting at random a few of the quoted prices in recent issues of COUNTRY LIFE we find that Berkshire freeholds, at £4,000, £6,000 and £9,000, may be bought through Messrs. Nicholas, namely: in the order of price; a large modern house and an acre, overlooking the East Berks golf course, near Wokingham; three acres and a modernised house; and what may be called a small modern mansion and four or five acres, six miles from Huntercombe. Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley offer a delightful little Georgian house and four acres, in Bedfordshire, for £2,500. Six or seven large farms for sale by Messrs. Farebrother, Ellis and Co. include 210 acres in Devonshire for £3,600, and 320 acres in Hertfordshire for £13,500. These and other holdings are well let at substantial rents. A freehold on a Surrey common, seven acres, commanding a view of the Hog's Back, can be bought for £4,250, through Messrs. Giddys' Sunningdale office. Messrs. Osborn and Mercer offer an old house of the Cotswold type in Wiltshire, with an acre, for £2,000.

A RETREAT ON THE CHILTERN

BETWEEN Tring and Great Missenden, a modernised Elizabethan black-and-white house and 20 acres, 800ft. above sea level, are not likely to be long in the hands of Messrs. Ralph Pay and Taylor, seeing that less than £4,000 can be accepted by the vendor. A sale for £6,000, or a tenancy furnished, is negotiable through Messrs. Constable and Maudslayi for a large house and 100 acres, in North Devonshire. One third of the £12,000 that a Dorset property cost can be accepted by a client of Messrs. Wellesley-Smith's office at Reading, and a Cotswold seventeenth-century restored and enlarged house and 100 acres are ready for entry by anyone who will pay £11,000. Prices quoted by Messrs. Bentall, Horsley and Baldry include £2,350 for an Alton freehold of 12 acres, and £15,000 for a small mansion and 160 acres, near Badminton. Messrs. F. Mercer and Co. can sell a West Riding house and 3 acres (in the Charlotte Brontë country), for £5,000.

ARBITER.

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- ★ WHEELBARROW TYRES & WHEELS
- ★ THRESHER BELTS
- ★ 'V' BELTS
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- ★ SUCTION HOSE
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WITH BLACK STRAW BRIM, YELLOW PETERSHAM CROWN AND YELLOW AND BLACK PLEATED CHIFFON POM-POMS
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OUR HATS

By ISABEL CRAMPTON

PEOPLE who have the gift for living—and by that I mean the power of making everyday things interesting and enjoyable, even the daily round and the common task a pleasure—will, I am sure, at the present moment of dress restriction, fly to hats. These people are undefeatable and, thank heaven, we have lots and lots of them. For them no matter how hard and difficult times may be there is always some way of making the best of things, and a good best too, and we shall see them during the next few months looking just as well dressed as ever, simply because even in war-time it is their nature and their gift to make life a gracious thing.

They will, as I said, fly to hats, because hats are unrationed and a hat can make more difference to appearance than any other single article of dress. Chosen cleverly and combined with what one already possesses in the way of coats, suits and frocks with due intention, they can alter both colour scheme and line and make the same outfit strike an entirely different note.

The two hats illustrated on this page represent two very distinct types. The large coarse straw hat with its cleverly simple trimming is ideal for bright weather. It is shown here in a shade which its maker, Miss Lucy, Limited, of Harewood Place, W.1, calls cabbage red, and it would be happy worn with black, dull pink, grey and grey blue, dark or light blue, some shades of mauve and green and, of course,

white. The only thing that really matters about colour combinations, apart from suiting their wearer, is that they should look intentional: a belt, facings, a posy, or even a well displayed chiffon handkerchief must accentuate the intention.

Worn with the hat in this photograph is a beautifully cut blouse in a misty blue crepe Radnor. It will cost coupons, but in such excellent material and made to fit to perfection it will do endless service and group with many different frocks, suits and hats to help variety. The same applies to the graceful blouse which, in the other picture, accompanies a most talking little hat likely to look its best on a smart occasion, for a war wedding or a reception, and yet not too elaborate for town wear. The hat has a brim of black straw, its crown is yellow petersham, the original pleated tulle pom-poms are one in yellow and one in black. All these details can be varied, of course, and other colours used, as with both hats and blouses Miss Lucy makes individual requirements a speciality.

I find a great deal of confusion even among the staffs of the big shops as to whether the "margarine" coupons which we now all possess will or will not remain valid after the new coupons are available. The simple fact is that we all can have, if we need them, 66 coupons to use between the end of May, 1941, and the end of May, 1942, but no more. The existing coupons can be used now or at any other time before May 31, 1942, but the new allotment will be only of forty, and those who need them will have to apply for them in due course, probably in August.

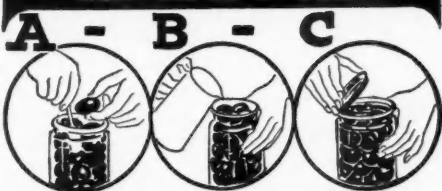


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